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THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,587

THURSDAY MAY 23 1996

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'Jaymee was special. She tried so hard and came so close'



David Bowen: no regrets
about legal campaign

By CAROL MIDGLEY

THE father of Jaymee Bowen, the 11-year-old girl finally beaten by leukaemia, spoke of her last days yesterday and pledged to continue his legal fight over her treatment saying: "She will win in the end."

David Bowen said his daughter, who came to prominence as "Child B" when he took Cambridge health authority to court last year, had shown awesome courage and he had no regrets about pressing for the extra chemotherapy that prolonged her life.

On Tuesday night, however, Mr Bowen held Jaymee's hand as she

died in her sleep at the private Portland Hospital, London. He told *The Times*: "As I looked at her I just thought that Jaymee didn't deserve this. She deserved to beat it. She tried so hard and she came so close. She was an incredibly special person."

Jaymee had been admitted to hospital last Thursday — the evening she had been due to attend a launch party of a book about her life — for what was thought to be a relatively minor problem. Healthy blood cells donated by her sister had triggered a "graft versus host" disease to keep the leukaemia under control, but it had begun to attack her lungs, making it difficult for her to breathe. "If we had

carried on, her lungs would have been so damaged she would have needed a transplant and I was not going to put her through that," Mr Bowen said.

Four days later her lungs had started to recover, but by then the leukaemia had swamped her body. "It was too much for her," her father added.

In the hours before her death Jaymee, too weak to speak and sedated by morphine, had indicated that she wanted the television switched off and Diana Ross's *Baby Love* played instead. By 9pm she had lapsed into a deeper sleep and just before 10pm, with her sister Char-

lotte, 10, holding one hand and her father the other, she died.

Mr Bowen, 32, a former property consultant from Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, said: "We were all with her. She was lying there and just stopped breathing. I looked at the doctor and he looked at me and that was it. It was very peaceful. She didn't know what was happening and she looked lovely, just like she was asleep. She had this little smile on her lips."

Jaymee's mother, Alyson, who had been at the hospital, was reported to be in utter shock and grief. Peter Gravett, the consultant haematologist who took on the challenge of

trying to cure her, was also at the bedside and said to be distraught.

In March last year Mr Bowen refused to accept Cambridge Health Authority's decision that Jaymee's chances of survival were so slim that they did not warrant spending £75,000 on chemotherapy and a possible bone marrow transplant. He challenged the decision in the High Court but lost.

Last night he said he had no regrets, saying: "I owed it to her, however small the chance it might have been."



Jaymee: asked for music to be played

Extra year, page 9
Body and Mind, page 18

Taylor attacks 'production line justice'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice today delivers a savage parting shot to the Home Secretary, accusing him of bringing in production line justice on the basis of tainted statistics.

Lord Taylor of Gossforth, who is retiring from ill health, challenges Michael Howard over claims that judges are too lenient and warns him that minimum jail terms would vastly increase the prison population.

Lord Taylor makes his first public comment on the sentencing White Paper published in March in an article in *The Times*, and it is expected to be followed by an unprecedented onslaught in a special debate in the House of Lords today. Lord Donaldson of Lynton, a former Master of the Rolls, Lord Windlesham, Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, Lord Lowry, Lord Nolan, and Lord Lester of Herne Hill are all expected to join Lord Taylor in attacking the proposals.

In his article, Lord Taylor tells Mr Howard that there is "no merit in adopting a macho attitude regardless of its efficacy", and says that certainty in sentencing, can be achieved only by sacrificing justice.

Jailing repeat burglars for a minimum of three years would either put them on a par with violent offenders or force judges to "ratchet up" other terms, hugely increasing the prison population.

The consequences of "pro-

duction line justice" could be seen in the humiliating fiasco of a previous criminal justice act which "collapsed under the weight of its own contradictions... after less than a year in operation", he writes.

"The Government's latest proposals suggest they have learned none of the lessons of this policy," Mr Howard has said that he is responding to public concern about crime and that he is determined to hit serious, dangerous and persistent of-

There is no merit in adopting a macho attitude regardless of its efficacy

—Lord Taylor of Gossforth

fenders hard. But Lord Taylor takes him to task over statistics quoted in the White Paper as evidence of the soft sentencing by judges.

The normal sentence for someone who burgles an occupied house is four years, he says, and the offender can expect to serve two or three. "If these sentence lengths are unduly lenient for a crime in which there is no violence, what longer terms must be imposed for offences against the person?" he writes.

Lord Taylor also cites White Paper figures which say that average sentences for burglars increase only from 16 months for a first offence to 19 months for the third. But, he says, the figures come from an unpublished sample of cases over five weeks in 1993 and 1994, and some of them relate to the time when judges were forbidden to take account of previous convictions.

"For the Government to criticise the judiciary for lenient sentencing when they were prevented from taking previous convictions into account by statute is wholly unjustifiable," Lord Taylor says. With those cases removed, the figures showed a bigger increase in severity than Mr Howard indicated.

"The White Paper therefore misrepresents the true position", he says. "Quite apart from the manifest injustice of sentencing without regard to the circumstances of the case, the statistics relied upon are therefore insufficient and tainted."

Last night the Home Office said that without seeing Lord Taylor's statistics, they could not comment. But a spokesman added: "When Michael Howard has cited statistics, he has not gone into all the detail — he has taken a selection of figures because people don't want to be bombarded. But obviously they are accurate."

Howard's justice, page 20



Owen Oyston, the millionaire, who was jailed for rape yesterday. His victim, then 16, was "young, dependent and vulnerable" said the judge

Oyston jailed for rape

By KATE ALDERSON AND RUSSELL JENKINS

THE flamboyant millionaire businessman Owen Oyston was jailed for six years yesterday for the "horrendous" rape of a 16-year-old former model.

Oyston, 62, the chairman of Blackpool Football Club, who lives in a 16th century manor near Lancaster, was also given

a concurrent three year sentence after the jury convicted him of indecently assaulting the same girl in the back of a sports car.

He reddened and fought back tears in the dock at a packed Liverpool Crown Court as he heard Mr Justice McCullough tell him that he had committed "horrendous offences" for which he had

shown not a hint of remorse.

The judge told Oyston, whose personal wealth is estimated at £40 million, that he had hoped to use his power and influence to save himself and had forced the girl, now aged 20 — and identified in court as Miss B — through the ordeal of a trial. "You were 58 and Miss B was 16. You were

Continued on page 3, col 1

Old bones crack riddle of Piltdown Man

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AND TIM JONES

TELL-TALE initials on an old canvas travelling trunk found under the roof of the Natural History Museum could finally have solved the riddle of Piltdown Man, the most noto-

rious scientific fraud of the century.

A collection of carved and stained old bones inside the trunk is said to prove beyond doubt the identity of the perpetrator of the hoax.

Brian Gardiner, Professor of Palaeontology at King's College, London, today names him as Martin Alistair Campbell Hinton, a former curator of zoology at the Natural History Museum in London, who died in 1961.

His evidence, which he will set out tomorrow in his presidential address to the Linnean Society, is based on years studying and analysing the contents of the trunk, which bears Hinton's initials.

Professor Gardiner said yesterday: "I first learnt of the trunk's existence in 1988. I was already almost sure that Hinton was the perpetrator. Lengthy examination of the contents has now confirmed

Hogg downgraded as 'beef war cabinet' is formed

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR and Malcolm Rifkind yesterday took charge of Britain's response to the beef crisis, setting up a "war cabinet" to convince the rest of Europe and Conservative Euro-sceptics of the seriousness of their threat to bring the European Union to a standstill.

In a move that suggested that the role of Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, is being downgraded, Mr Major established a new Cabinet group headed by Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, to oversee the policy of slaughtering and disposing of millions of cattle more than 30 months old.

The development comes after widespread criticism from farmers and meat traders over lack of co-ordination and information about the slaughter policy, and a stream of Tory backbench complaints about Mr Hogg's handling of

the affair. Conservative sources say that Mr Major is looking more than ever to Mr Rifkind to front for the Government. Both he and Mr Hogg will undertake missions to EU states to explain the

Government's case but the Foreign Secretary will be very much in the lead.

Also in the new group will be Michael Forsyth and William Hague, the Scottish and Welsh Secretaries, as well as ministers from the agriculture, health and environment departments.

But the so-called beef war cabinet will be a core team of Mr Major, Mr Rifkind and Mr Hogg, serviced by a group of senior civil servants headed by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary. They will meet today and as often as necessary in the coming weeks as Britain conducts an intense diplomatic effort designed to produce a timetable for the

Continued on page 2, col 4
British campaign, pages 12, 13
William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Leading article, letters, page 21

Clinton accused over sex case

Republicans accused President Clinton of trying to delay a sexual harassment lawsuit brought by Paula Jones by suggesting that as Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces he had the same rights as a soldier on active duty.

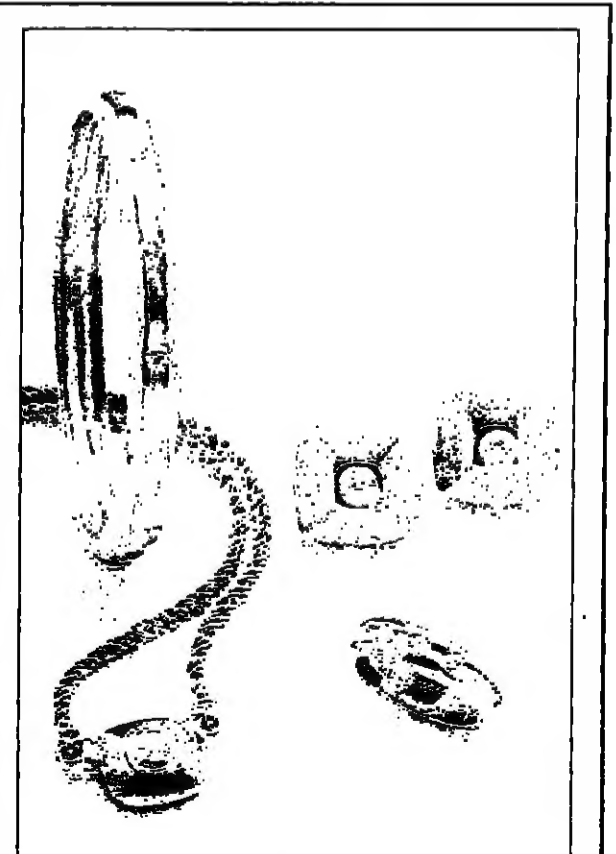
Mr Clinton dodged wearing a military uniform during the Vietnam War, but his lawyer, Robert Bennett, said the criticism was a partisan attempt to distort his petition.

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Labour candidate deselected

The Labour Party's ruling body deselected John Lloyd, the parliamentary candidate for Exeter, over his past links with terrorism in South Africa.

Mr Lloyd said that he was "very disappointed and very angry" and would take legal advice on the decision. The National Executive Committee rejected a last-minute plea by his supporters, who had travelled to London.



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Grande dame out-trumps them on the red leather

FOR the Baroness Trumpington to take her name from nothing more than a small village outside Cambridge is unfair. An entire metropolitan borough would hardly be substantial enough to serve as her namesake.

The noble baroness, winner of a *Spectator* parliamentary award earlier this year, deserves at least a county and arguably an entire mountain range for her name. Or perhaps a famous foreign battlefield: "Lady Rourke's Drift" or "the Countess Agincourt" would do.

But fate has decreed that it

is as Lady Trumpington that the great woman, who is (unbelievably) 73, takes the dispatch box in the Lords to answer questions, most weeks, as one of the longest-serving ministers at Westminster.

She does so with rollicking good humour and an element of self-parody that cries out, even this late in her career, for a casting in a Christmas pantomime role pitched somewhere between Lady Bracknell and the Widow Twankey. "Ooh," she once scolded a clever-clogs questioner from the Labour benches, "the no-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

ble lord is just trying to get my knickers in a twist again!"

Over on the red benches yesterday, as the Commons wound down for its Whitsun recess with a riveting debate on the Civil Service, Lady Trumpington took the floor to handle a question from Lord Eden of Winton about proposals to site a waste-disposal plant on the Wisley Airfield site, in a greenbelt, in Surrey.

She said the matter had yet to be determined.

Up popped Lord Finsberg, anxious to inform her that he had once been an Environment Minister in the Commons and knew something about greenbelts. Lord Finsberg has not been long in the Upper Chamber.

Lady Trumpington paused, as though drawing on a long black cigarette holder, then

huskily observed: "I'm very interested in my noble friend's background." There drifted over the red leather a sound as of a gathering of very elderly seals, barking. Their lordships were amused.

"When I lived in Cambridge," Lady Trumpington said, "I constantly had a thing in the back of my car, saying 'Keep Trumpington's Greenbelt'." The barking resumed.

The Countess of Mar rose. Though her pedigree looks very grand (*Dod's Parliamentary Companion* describes her as 31st in line, Margaret of Mar, created 1194, precedence

1404) Lady Mar, technocratic, with glasses, looks like a middle-ranking civil servant in the erstwhile Department of Education and Science. She told Lady Trumpington that, among the emissions given out by incinerators, dioxins were a serious problem. Could the noble baroness assure her that dioxins would be kept within a limit of 1 per cent?

Lady Trumpington looked at Lady Mar as though she had always assumed that dioxin was some kind of hangover cure, but now this awfully clever little person had

brought her information for which she hadn't asked and which she could well do without. "I'm not terribly good on dioxins," she drawled, and referred Lady Mar to a government publication.

"And can I have her assurance," Lady Mar had asked, "that any waste disposal plant will have scrubbers in its chimney?"

Another pause. Trumpington peered at Mar. "Very tempting, my lords," she growled, in her large-gin-and-20-Gauloise voice. Basking on their red benches, all the seals barked.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heads told to sack bad teachers

Weak head teachers are responsible for 15,000 incompetent teachers keeping their jobs, the Chief Inspector of Schools told MPs last night. Chris Woodhead said that existing employment laws made it possible to dismiss poor teachers, but that only tiny numbers were ever sacked for incompetence.

He told the House of Commons Education and Employment Select Committee: "There is a satisfactory way of dismissing incompetent teachers. The problem is one of determination. There isn't sufficient resolution to do what needs to be done."

Judge charged

A deputy High Court judge has been charged with drink-driving after being stopped in his home town of Lytham, Lancashire. James Bonney, QC, aged 48, has not sat in any judicial capacity since being appointed last February. He informed the Lord Chancellor of the incident earlier this week.

Accidental death

The death of a burglar who collapsed after a struggle with a homeowner was an accident, an inquest jury decided last night. Miklos Baumgartner, 56, of Ockbrook, Derbyshire, fought Robert Ingham, 22, last December. The cause of death was given as pressure applied to the neck, leading to heart failure.

Bowbelle sinks

The dredger which ran into the disco cruiser *Marchioness* on the Thames seven years ago with the loss of 51 lives has sunk, it emerged yesterday. The *Bowbelle*, renamed the *Bom Rei*, broke in two and went down 500 miles off the coast of Madeira on March 25. One crew member died.

Sounness libel win

Graeme Sounness, the former Liverpool and Scotland footballer, won an estimated £100,000 libel award after *The Mail on Sunday* offered unreserved apologies for a report claiming that he took "secret and corrupt bribes" on the transfer market while managing Glasgow Rangers and Liverpool.

PoW's prize

Eric Lomax, a former POW, won the £25,000 NCR Book Award for *The Railway Man*, a harrowing account of life on the Burma railway and reconciliation with his torturer. David Malouf won the inaugural international IMPAC Dublin Literary Award of £100,000 for *Remembering Babylon*.

Risky business

The Army is to create a new breed of recruits called "risk candidates", who can join up for short spells to get a taste of military life. Instead of having to commit themselves to the full rigours of a 10-week training course, they will be allowed to come and go before making up their minds about an army career.

After-pub drama

Radio 4 is launching a new late-night drama aimed at people coming home from the pub on Saturdays. The BBC said, *P Division*, set in Glasgow, will be the first broadcast, at 10.15pm on July 6. *Saturday Night Theatre*, halved in length to 45 minutes, will be on at 8.50pm.

Breast decision

Two healthy sisters have decided to have their breasts removed to avoid the risk of cancer. Andrea Stevenson, 25, of Atherstone, Nottinghamshire, and her unnamed sister, 27, have a family history of breast cancer. Their mother died from it at 31 and their grandmother at 26.

Royal role

The Princess Royal carried out her first investiture on behalf of the Queen, further strengthening her position as a senior royal. She presented honours, including two knighthoods, to about 70 people in a 45-minute ceremony at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

Ministers rally MPs in bid to rescue divorce reform Bill

By JILL SHERMAN AND ALICE THOMSON

THE Government made a last-ditch attempt to rescue its divorce reform Bill last night, the Law Society having withdrawn its support and Labour renewing a threat to vote it down.

Jonathan Evans, the junior minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, has written to all MPs to rally potential Tory rebels to support the Family Law Bill, which risks being defeated in its final stages. He is also hoping to expose Labour divisions on the vote at the third reading.

Paul Boateng, Labour's legal affairs spokesman, said last night that the Bill was "a dog's breakfast" which could not command support. He claimed that the Law Society's decision not to back it was the last straw. "This is a real body blow to a battered and beleaguered Bill whose days must now be numbered. The Bill is unworkable as it is. It is also unwanted. The Government must think again."

The Shadow Cabinet has yet to decide whether Labour should abstain or vote against the Bill at the third reading. Several Labour MPs are said to be concerned about throw-

ing out a Bill that includes measures they support.

Yesterday Mr Evans accused Labour of playing party politics if it voted down the legislation. His letter to MPs plays on Tory rebel fears about quickie divorces, reassuring them that the new Bill will make it harder, rather than easier, to split up.

It claims that the present system of divorce lacks support on all sides of the House. "It permits quickie divorces in as little as three months on the basis of spurious allegations, without the couple having to give any thought to the consequences of their actions," writes Mr Evans. "The Family Law Bill heralds the end of this damaging and nonsensical system."

The Law Society's decision to withdraw its support will put the legislation in further jeopardy. The society's Family Law Committee said yesterday: "The Bill, if passed in its present form, would create a confusing set of delays and uncertainties for people who are already suffering after the breakdown of their marriage."

Mr Evans, who spent two hours with the society yester-

day morning, accused it of being interested only in its own members. "Unfortunately I believe that this has more to do with the society representing the interest of lawyers than with any desire to see an improvement in family law in this country. I cannot see any aspect of the Bill that justifies their stance."

Last night several Tory rebels who voted against the Government on the Bill last month made clear that they had still not been won over by recent concessions.

Edward Leigh, a leading rebel, said: "One hundred and twelve Tories voted against the Government last time. It will be very difficult to get them all to change their minds."

He said the only way that rebels like himself and the former minister John Patten could be won over was if the Government introduced an amendment bringing back the notion of fault.

"What we want to see is a concession amendment which would allow couples to sign an affidavit that they take their view of marriage extremely seriously and acknowledge their responsibilities."



John Richardson posts a message to passersby yesterday at his beef farm near Otley, Yorkshire

Major names 'beef war cabinet'

Continued from page 1
removal of the beef ban, and implements a policy of non-cooperation aimed at forcing the EU to accept scientific advice and give way.

Mr Rifkind declared last night that Britain would not be "pushed around" and rejected claims that it was blackmailing the EU. As the European Commission confirmed its decision to press for a lifting of the by-products ban on June 3, Mr Rifkind said he

believed the reaction from Brussels was "positive and supportive." He said: "Of course they are not enthusiastic about what the Prime Minister announced. The crucial point is that we didn't expect the Prime Minister's announcement to be welcomed by other countries, but we are not going to be pushed around and that concentrates the mind wonderfully."

As Conservative MPs left Westminster yesterday for the

Whitsun recess it was clear that their spirits had been buoyed by Mr Major's decision to raise the stakes with Europe. Some Conservatives were privately hoping for a lengthy war of attrition with the EU which they believe can only help the party's electoral chances. Some, recalling the impact of the Falklands war on Lady Thatcher's 1983 election victory, see a "war with Europe" as the only background against which the

Tories could recover to win an election, possibly in the autumn rather than next spring. Labour's caution will be underlined today when Tony Blair backs the call for the ban to be lifted during talks with the new Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, in Rome.

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William Rees-Mogg, page 20
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Runcie attacks Church reforms

By RUTH GLEDHILL

LORD RUNCIE, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, will attack the management of the Church of England today with implicit criticisms of his successor, Dr George Carey.

In tonight's edition of *The Purple, the Blue and the Red* on Radio 4, Lord Runcie says he is worried by moves towards a "management Church" which he claims is addressing an increasingly narrow constituency. His criticisms come as the Church prepares for its General Synod in July, when radical changes to its structure and management systems will again be debated.

The synod has accepted initial proposals to reorganise the central structure to speed decision-making. Dr Carey is understood broadly to support the changes, but they are causing increasing concern among the Church's old guard, of which Lord Runcie, a liberal catholic, is a leading representative.

Interviewed by *The Times's* Anthony Howard, Lord Runcie says: "My worry is that we are creating a Church which is better organised financially, better governed synodically, better promoted by its enthusiastic and specialist ministries, but actually it is addressing a smaller and smaller constituency."

Steve Jenkins, a Church spokesman, said: "For the past five years, church membership and attendance have been stable, so that does not suggest a narrowing constituency."

Dublin admits blunder over IRA extradition

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH police yesterday asked Scotland Yard to submit extradition warrants on coloured paper after it was disclosed that an IRA suspect escaped extradition because the papers had been mistaken for photocopies and shredded.

The Irish Parliament had to be suspended amid uproar for three hours yesterday when opposition MPs accused John Bruton, the Prime Minister, of misleading the Dail over the extradition of Anthony Duncan last month. Mr Duncan, 26, is wanted in Britain for questioning about IRA bombings before the ceasefire.

An extradition hearing at Dublin District Court collapsed last month when a solicitor acting for the Irish State said that the extradition warrants from Scotland Yard were "fundamentally flawed". Government sources at the time blamed the British au-

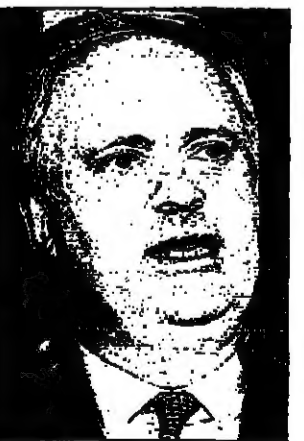
thorities for sending incorrect documents.

However, Nora Owen, the Irish Justice Minister, admitted on Tuesday that the warrant had been "destroyed accidentally" by police as they made copies of it. In a written parliamentary reply, Mrs Owen said that an extensive investigation had established that Britain had sent the proper documentation.

As a result, Irish police have asked Scotland Yard to send extradition warrants on coloured paper in future so they can be distinguished from photocopies. A police source said: "It's very hard to make out the difference between an original and a good photocopy. If the original is on coloured paper, it won't be mistaken for a copy."

Irish ministers tried to play down the mistake yesterday in the Dail. Austin Currie, the Junior Justice Minister, described the controversy as "a storm in a photocopy". He added: "We understand that extradition is a very serious matter... But there is nothing sinister in this."

There has been a series of embarrassments over extraditions. In 1986 Evelyn Glenholmes, who was wanted in connection with an IRA bombing campaign in Britain, was freed after a Dublin court ruled that the extradition warrants were defective. In 1988 Patrick McVeigh, another IRA bombing suspect, was freed after a judge threw out the warrants because British police were not present to identify him in court.



Bruton: accused of misleading the Dail

Pitdown Man riddle cracked

Continued from page 1
my suspicions". The trunk was discovered by maintenance contractors clearing the loft space in the south-west tower of the museum in the 1970s. It came to the attention of Andrew Currant, a researcher at the museum, who mentioned its existence to Professor Gardiner.

Crucially, the two men discovered that the rodent dissections, pieces of fossil hippos and elephant teeth and other bones in the

trunk were stained with iron and manganese in the same proportions as the Pitdown specimens. Traces of chromium also found in both are likewise thought to have been used in the staining process.

Discovery of the skull in 1912 at a gravel pit at Pitdown in Sussex caused a sensation as it appeared to provide proof of the "missing link" between man and ape and neatly tied in with prevailing views of human ancestry. But scientific tests in the 1950s proved that

the skull came from a modern human and the jaw from an orang-utan, while other artefacts at the site were all shown to be of recent date.

For years the prime suspect was Charles Dawson, a lawyer, antiquary and second-rate geologist who had unearthed the find and who had long yearned for scientific recognition.

Professor Gardiner's findings are reported in today's issue of the scientific journal *Nature*.

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'To be blunt, I had a lot of girlfriends ... sometimes Miss World contestants and I would go out'

Self-made man who felt insecure despite riches

By KATE ALDERSON

AN ABIDING belief that money and power made him attractive to women led Owen Oyston to be charged with rape. He was jailed yesterday for six years.

The self-made tycoon, who once had just £7 to his name as an unemployed salesman, boasts that he has never paid for sex. Throughout the late 1990s he was rarely seen without a young woman on his arm as he indulged in a life of fast cars, parties and racehorses.

His financial involvement with the Miss World contest gave him access to the contestants and a constant stream of beautiful girls flitted through his life, sharing his suite at the Park Lane Hilton or his table at Stringfellow's nightclub. He claimed there were too many to remember by name.

"I was divorced at the time and it was the last chance to enjoy myself," he later told police. "To be blunt, I had a lot of girlfriends over the years. Sometimes Miss World contestants and I would go out."

When police questioned him

OYSTON PROFILE

about rape allegations made by a 20-year-old model — a charge on which he was earlier acquitted — he said: "I didn't have to impress any one girl at that time because of the position I was in. There were plenty of girls available if I wanted to go to bed with them. I never paid anybody for sex, to put it crudely. It is something I have never done and never would do."

In 1988 he remarried his former wife, Vicki, six years after they had divorced. This failed to dampen his enthusiasm for models. In court he admitted affairs with four models between 1989 and 1993. "If I wanted young, beautiful women they were not hard to find ... I was as discreet as possible. I didn't go searching them out. These were largely young models looking for advancement and I was seen as someone who could advance them."

Ranked among the 400 richest Britons in *The Sunday Times*, the miner's son from Blackpool is thought to be

worth about £40 million. He made his fortune in the property boom of the early 1980s and bought the rights to the Miss World contest in 1988.

He lives in Cloughton Hall, a £3 million 16th-century manor house with 50 rooms. The property is on a hilltop overlooking Hornby, near Lancaster, and Oyston once kept wild bison in the grounds. A giant portrait of Oyston hangs over his bed; another dominates the en-suite bathroom.

Oyston is proud of the ornate marquetry on his Jacobean four-poster bed which, he boasted, was prone to shake noisily during sex. In evidence he said: "It can be quite unerving. If you were on the bed having sexual intercourse, the canopy would move quite vigorously."

He began his entrepreneurial career as a salesman in a Saxe shoe shop but soon moved on to selling sewing machines door to door. He tried his hand at acting but managed to land only minor roles in *Coronation Street* and *Crown Court*.

It was in the early Sixties that Oyston stood as a Labour candidate in local elections in Blackpool and married Vicki Burns, a former Miss Blackpool. He became a substantial figure in Labour Party politics in the North West and is reputed to be the largest individual donor to the party.

The flamboyance cultivated as a struggling actor was exploited when he returned to the business world. He came to prominence through his chain of estate agencies which were the first to promise "no sale, no fee" deals and offer weekend opening. In 27 years he built up a chain of 98

branches based in the Midlands and the North West. He sold out to Royal Insurance in 1987 for £27 million ahead of the collapse in property prices.

At the same time Oyston was adding to his portfolio of regional magazines and local radio stations. He took a controlling interest in Manchester's Piccadilly Radio, Red Rose Radio in Preston and a string of radio, publishing and cable television ventures.

He came to the rescue of the *News on Sunday*, the troubled left-wing Sunday tabloid. The paper collapsed less than six months later and Oyston lost a reputed £2 million.

In 1988 Oyston merged his radio interests with the company behind the Miss World pageants to create Trans World Communications. The venture was not a success and Eric Morley bought back his side of the business three years later.

Oyston enjoyed success as chairman of Blackpool Football Club. He took over in 1987 when the club was bankrupt and languishing in lower divisions. The club just missed promotion to the First Division but still has plans to build a £130 million stadium.

Oyston once said that he would like to return to the theatre "when I am established". "There is a lot of insecurity in all successful businessmen. I've never felt I made it."



Oyston, photographed with two unnamed dancers, was rarely seen without a young woman on his arm as he indulged in a life of parties and racehorses

Teenage anguish relived for jury

TWO women jurors wept as Owen Oyston's victim was forced to relive her ordeal as a 16-year-old.

The elfin-faced woman, now 20, with bobbed hair and a broad Lancashire accent, cried frequently as she described how Oyston had made her perform oral sex in the rear seat of a car as they were driven to his mansion in the early hours.

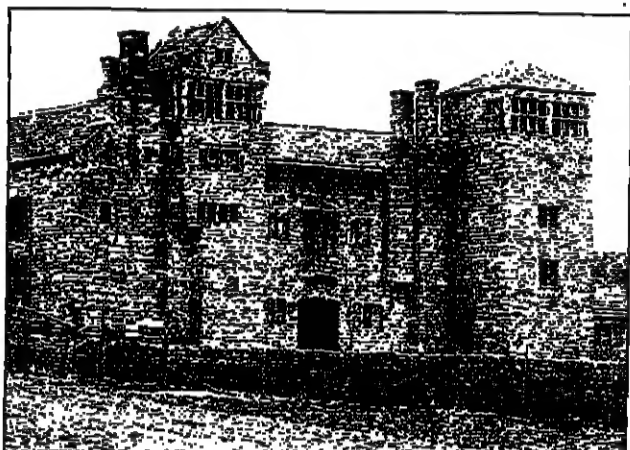
The woman, known in court as Miss B, then told how she was forced to watch him have sex with a young woman before being ordered to undress and join them. Oyston

THE VICTIM

had sex with her as she lay petrified, without asking whether she was willing. "He treated me as if I were an object and I'm not ... I'm not," she sobbed. "I was frightened. I was in a house in a bed with a guy I didn't even know, an old man. I was 16 years old and he didn't give a damn."

She had met Oyston while working for the now-defunct Model Team agency in Manchester, which she had joined at 14. He was introduced as "someone very important and dead rich".

Miss B did not disclose her ordeal for years, fearing that no one would believe her. She has not worked since the rape and smokes cannabis to help her to blot out what happened.



Cloughton Hall, Oyston's home near Lancaster

Love at first sight was given a second chance

By KATE ALDERSON

VICKI OYSTON, a former Miss Blackpool, has remained loyal to her husband's side throughout the trial. In court she has been flanked by her daughters Karen and Heidi and friends as she listened to details of her husband's repeated infidelity. Weeping as she gave evidence, she told the court: "I didn't know until the charges were put forward and I saw names of girlfriends. I didn't know. Nobody knows at the time. I suspected."

The couple met in 1962 when as Vicki Burns she won a number of beauty titles from Morecambe to Margate, using the prize money to fund her teacher-training studies. At 21 she became a local celebrity when she won *The Gazette* and *Herald* Girl of the Year contest in Blackpool and later reached the final of Miss Great Britain.

The couple married at Blackpool Register Office

THE WIFE

after a five-week courtship. "It was at a dance," she said later. "We only spoke a word or two. Then he asked me out. I certainly believe in love at first sight now."

The Oystons had five children — Heidi, Dawn, Karl, Adam and Karen — but in 1982 the marriage foundered



Vicki Oyston: showed loyalty during trial

because of Oyston's passion for work.

However, they did not lead separate lives. For 18 months after the divorce Mrs Oyston stayed at Cloughton Hall, to spend time with her children. On occasion she stayed the night in the same bedroom as her ex-husband. They continued to take combined holiday and business trips together.

They remarried at Lancaster Register Office in 1988 but their reunion soon ran into difficulties. Mrs Oyston admitted that the relationship had been fraught immediately after the remarriage because of her liaison with another man. In court her husband admitted he had exercised double standards.

In the weeks after she remarried, Mrs Oyston believed that her husband had arranged for Peter Martin, a Manchester model agency owner, to have her followed by a private detective. The couple eventually visited a marriage counsellor.

Praise for rape victim

Continued from page 1

rich and powerful with a strong personality. She was young, dependent and vulnerable. This aggravates the offence," said the judge.

"I do not believe she led you on in any way. I am, however, prepared to assume you hoped that your advantages, age, wealth and position would influence her to agree to what you wanted. When it came to it, she didn't and it must have been obvious she did not. As she so accurately put it: 'He treated me like an object and I am not.' It is impossible to know to what extent she has been traumatised by the experience of that night."

Oyston, sporting a silk marigold handkerchief in the top pocket of his navy-blue double-breasted suit, tried to whisper some reassuring words to his wife Vicki sitting beside their daughter Heidi in the well of the court a few yards away. After he was led to the cells, his wife refused to comment and Oyston's lawyers said they were looking at the possibility of an appeal.

Det Sgt Harry Harrison, one of the investigating team, said of Miss B: "She has shown tremendous courage in coming to court and giving her evidence ... I hope she can take some consolation from the fact that today's result can be seen as a victory for the average person in the street by showing no matter who an offender is, action can and will be taken when a person's privacy is violated."

PREVIOUS RAPE CHARGES

THE jury that convicted Oyston of rape was never told that he had at one time faced charges involving six women. Last year a Manchester subsidiary magistrate ruled that he had no case to answer on charges of raping one girl and indecently assaulting two others. In February Oyston faced two separate rape trials, with the judge ordering that nothing could be reported on those cases until yesterday's verdicts.

In the first trial the jury

could not decide on the allegation that Oyston raped Miss A, although it cleared him of indecently assaulting her in a separate alleged incident. The rape charge was ordered to be retried before the jury at Liverpool which yesterday cleared him of the charge.

Three weeks later another jury cleared him of raping a 20-year-old model who claimed he had sex with her as she slept in his suite at the Hilton Hotel, London.

mits rape deserves the worst kind of sentence. Any woman who suffers rape has an awful ordeal and I would have great sympathy for that awful experience and its trauma."

Oyston lured Miss B to his manor house while she was working as a teenage model at the agency run by Oyston's friend and one-time business associate, Peter Martin.

Speaking outside the court after Oyston was jailed, defending solicitor Michael Burne said: "My client is obviously very disappointed at the verdict. He has always maintained his innocence and we intend to look carefully at grounds for appeal."

A spokeswoman for Women Against Rape said of the verdict: "We are very glad that a man who has abused his position has been successfully prosecuted."

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Senior solicitor wants Law Society chiefs to be ousted over 'farce'

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FRESH turmoil erupted at the Law Society yesterday when one of its best-known past presidents, Rodger Pannone, attacked the leaders as unfit to govern.

He called a press conference to denounce the "unifying political regime" of Martin Mears, the president, which he said had lost the respect of decision-makers in government, politics and the legal profession.

"The activities of the Law Society are viewed by outsiders as a humourless farce," Mr Pannone said. "I warn my colleagues that, if the society continues under its present leadership, it will be marginalised and solicitors will risk losing the trust of the public."

He said it was imperative for the standing of the solicitors' profession that Mr Mears and his deputy, Robert Sayer, be removed from office. He urged candidates "of integrity and leadership skills" to oppose them in next month's

presidential elections. Otherwise a future government might consider removing the society's regulatory powers and it would become a "second-class trade union".

Mr Pannone, who announced that he was leaving the society's council after 18 years, as he had always intended, said he had not spoken out before because he had not wished to demean the profession by airing dirty linen in public over issues that could seem petty and irrelevant to the "great external problems of the profession". But he now felt "desperately worried for the future of the profession".

After the press conference, Mr Mears said: "I find it absolutely astonishing that people like Mr Pannone accuse me of bringing the profession into disrepute when people like him were going to put up John Young [who resigned as deputy president after sexual harassment allegations] to be president of the profession." Mr Young would

have been president last year but stood down after the allegations. They had previously been raised when Mr Pannone was one of the officers of the society but Mr Young was not asked then to stand down.

Mr Mears denied that the society was held in low esteem and said he had been well received when he visited local law societies. He also rejected one of Mr Pannone's charges that he had visited the Lord Chancellor only once since becoming president. Mr Mears said that he had seen officials and the junior minister more than once and saw no reason to visit the Lord Chancellor to repeat previous arguments.

"If Rodger Pannone thought I thought I should see the Lord Chancellor every fortnight or whatever, why did he not pick up the phone and say, 'You must pay these essential visits'?"

He denied that top staff had left because of him.

Tenneh fit to fly home next week

AN AFRICAN orphan who was flown to Britain to have a bullet removed from her skull should be fit to return home next week.

Tenneh Cole, 5, from Sierra Leone, had a bullet removed from behind her right eye nine days ago by surgeons at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich, who have been delighted with her recovery.

"The doctors are looking at her being able to go home next Tuesday or Wednesday," a spokeswoman said. "They have been delighted with her progress and she is up and running about again. We are now trying to ensure that she will get the proper back-up and help when she returns home."

Doctors say the bullet could have caused Tenneh's brain to become infected and triggered sudden death. It cost her the sight of her right eye and much of her hearing. Doctors hope that this will improve with a hearing aid.



Tenneh Cole, with staff nurse Helen Shorten, shows she has recovered

Wife in £9m split asks court for more

BY JOANNA BALE

THE wife of one of the world's richest men went to the Court of Appeal yesterday to ask for a bigger divorce settlement than the "excessively meant" £8.8 million she was awarded.

Karina Dart, 37, is the former wife of the American multimillionaire Robert Dart, also 37, whose £489 million family fortune is based on the manufacture of polystyrene carvings. When Mr Justice Johnson made the award to her last month he included £2,500 maintenance a month for each of their two children and provision for her to charter private planes.

James Munby, QC, her counsel, told the court that he could not quantify the full extent of her claims, which are also being made in the American courts. However, when asked by Lady Justice Butler-Sloss: "What is your client realistically looking for?" he replied: "One is talking at absolute minimum of many, many, many tens of millions."

The payment ordered in April was conditional on her transferring her interest in a house in Kensington and relinquishing two Porsches, a Ferrari, a painting, and 1,624 shares in the Dart Container Corporation. She claims in her appeal, on which the court will reserve judgment, that the award failed to make adequate provision for her security and that Mr Justice Johnson was not given a true picture of Mr Dart's wealth.

The couple, who were college sweethearts, married in 1980. Mr Dart filed for divorce last year, claiming that his wife had refused to have sex with him since 1993 and had had an affair in Greece. The hearing continues.

Jury says sex with model was not rape

BY ADRIAN LEE

A BUSINESSMAN was cleared yesterday of the rape of a model who got into his bed during the night.

The Old Bailey jury, which was out for just ten minutes, was told that the alleged victim slipped into Andrew Rickett's bed in March last year, saying she was cold. She began cuddling him and he took it as an invitation to have sex. The woman, of West Indian origin, said she came from a culture where it was normal for couples to share a bed without having sex.

Mr Rickett, 39, who owns a kitchenware business, said he agreed to let the woman, aged 21, stay the night at his house, in Chingford, Essex. They had known one another previously and had been at the same dinner party. "I put her in the best room in the house. Later she came back into my room and said it was too cold and the bed was too soft. She asked if she could stay in my room. I told her: 'All right'."

The woman said she left the house traumatised by what Mr Rickett had done to her. "He raped me for what seemed like hours. I screamed and screamed," she said.

The trial is estimated to have cost the taxpayer £50,000. Mr Rickett said afterwards: "This sort of prosecution puts every man in danger. I should not have been put through this ordeal."

CORRECTION

The German Zeppelin *Hindenburg* (report, yesterday) exploded at her mooring mast in New Jersey, America, on May 6, 1937.

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Times exhibition applauded for revealing new dimensions to 19th-century master

Demand for Degas beats National Gallery record

By Emma Wilkins and Darya Alberge

THE Degas exhibition opened at the National Gallery yesterday after selling more than 3,500 advance tickets, the largest number for any show at the London gallery.

As the public ignored the rain to queue for tickets, exhibition curators were hailing the show as a popular and critical success. Advance sales outstripped even the gallery's Rembrandt exhibition in 1992. By lunchtime yesterday

more than 1,200 people had visited the show chronicling Degas' later years, which is partly sponsored by *The Times* and will run until August. To prevent crowding in the exhibition's six rooms, tickets are limited to 200 for each half-hour. Those unable to gain immediate entry can buy tickets for later.

Michael Wilson, head of exhibitions and display, said: "We are absolutely delighted

with the initial reaction to the show." British artists including Peter Blake, Sir Howard Hodgkin, David Hockney and Lucian Freud have given the exhibition their approval.

Richard Kendall, curator of the exhibition, said the show had caught the imagination of artists and public alike. "I'm delighted because people are wide-eyed with wonder and pleasure. A great number of these pictures are unfamiliar to them and even to some of the specialists."

"There is a feeling of freshness and excitement which is palpable in the galleries. There is a great deal of interest in the show among the art world."

"Many leading artists are going to visit, bringing their students and drawing materials. Lucian Freud will certainly come back. He visited last week and was very enthusiastic about the exhibition."

Mr Kendall, who has written an introduction to the catalogue, said that some visitors had been surprised by the audacity of Degas' works. "There is a sense of shock among some people that the work is so bold, dramatic in colour and looks so astonishingly modern."

"People are used to thinking

of Degas as a 19th-century artist but his work defies many preconceptions." Stan Hayward, an animator who created the children's cartoon *Henry's Cat*, visited the exhibition yesterday and wondered if Degas had been influenced by early cinema. "He does a series of repetitive paintings, which seem very filmic in influence," he said.

Suzanne Cohen, an artist, thought that the size of the exhibition had been rightly judged: "You can look at each painting for a long time. Some exhibitions can be rather overwhelming. If anything, I would have liked a little more on his early work."

Bryan Atack, who had travelled from his home in York, said that the exhibition was better than the Cézanne show at the Tate Gallery. "It improved my perception of Degas, whereas my opinion of Cézanne went down after I went to the Tate. The layout brings you from the drawings to the paintings very well."

□ *Degas: Beyond Impressionism*, £5 for adults and £3 for students, OAPs, unemployed and disabled people; advance booking available through First Call, 0171-420 0000; National Gallery information 0171-747 2885.



Woman combing her hair: "His work is so bold, so dramatic, so modern"

'It knocked me out ... incredibly sculptural'

By Darya Alberge and Emma Wilkins

THE exhibition has already been seen by many artists and writers.

The sculptor Sir Anthony Caro said: "I adored it. It was wonderful. I've always liked Degas, particularly the sculpture and drawings. I realised when I saw the catalogue that it was going to be good. It knocked me out. It's so incredibly sculptural, even though he's a painter and pasteller. In my view, he is one of the great sculptors of the 19th

century, along with Rodin and Maillol. He's so modern."

Peter Blake, the pop artist, said: "Some of the big charcoal works were a surprise. I hadn't seen much of the late drawings. They are so extraordinary ... You rather get used to Degas dancers. But at the show it's suddenly different. Reproductions look like pretty calendar pictures. They're not that at all. They're great big tough, wonderful things."

Leon Kossoff, the painter, said: "A *Woman Drying Herself*, borrowed from Brooklyn, is one of the most beautiful

paintings I've ever seen. It's hardly ever shown. It's very large. Marvellous, beautiful and direct. It encouraged me to draw more."

Allen Jones, the artist, said: "I got goosebumps looking at them. Such a wealth of material. I'm still in thrall to the experience. The drawings were the revelation — a muscular style which one didn't associate with Degas. They showed him feeling his way to a painting in a way which I associate with the 20th century."

Marina Warner, the writer, said: "I went in running a

temperature and feeling unwell. I was cured by it. I came out feeling well. I'm not a freak New Age person. But it made me feel wonderful."

Julian Barnes, the writer, said: "It is a wonderful exhibition. I was specially impressed by the hang and use of a dark background, which would have accorded to what was probably in Degas' studio."

Anita Brookner, the writer, said: "The work is very noble. One has to think of the old man, shut up in his house in Montmartre, not going anywhere, probably a bit of a

hermit, working like a student, without much outside influence. It has been said he behaved like a voyeur. Nothing is further from the truth. These are very pure."

Jonathan Miller, the theatre director, said: "Every time you go to an exhibition, you see works in a new light ... To see an enormously concentrated assembly of works by an artist particularly preoccupied with the human physique in its private moments of self-grooming fastens your attention on things which you had overlooked before."

Collectors compete for Hirst polkadot

By Darya Alberge
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE first important work to be offered at auction by Damien Hirst was sold by Christie's in London yesterday for £32,200, four times its estimate.

Adrenochrome Semicarbazone Sulphonate (1992) features no dead creatures. It is one of his multicoloured polkadot paintings that, to the uninitiated, could be mistaken for a colour chart.

Nevertheless, it inspired frenzied bidding before going to an Italian private collector on the telephone who fought off intense competition from at least five others in the room. Prices leapt from a £5,000 start, reflecting Hirst's international standing.

Underbidders included Ivor Braka, a leading dealer and collector who described himself as a big enthusiast of Hirst. "The price is good. He's a very, very good artist. This is not simply fashion. It has made the right price in today's market," Mr Braka has two other Hirst pieces, including *In and Out of Love*, which features butterflies and a table with four ashtrays and stubbed-out cigarettes. It has been reserved by a museum.

Other bidders included Gordon Martin, representing a collector in Singapore with an upper limit of £25,000; and Jonathan Goodman, a publisher who said he was trying to start a Hirst collection. He would have paid "half the figure it went for".

Collectors are prepared to pay more than £150,000 for sculptures by Hirst, 31, who won last year's £20,000 Turner Prize for his sliced cow and calf in formaldehyde, *Mother and Child Divided*. As he has explained: "I like to cut things open. It's together but separated."

For some he is a master of gruesome gimmick with a shock-horror fascination for carcasses, blood and entrails. For others, he is the "Michelangelo of his day".

Photograph, page 24

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Lowestoft is cast adrift as Dutch interest goes flat

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE affair began on the chilly shores of the North Sea 34 years ago and blossomed into full romance as the fishing communities of Lowestoft and Katwijk in The Netherlands exchanged civic, school and sporting visits.

The mayor of the sleepy Dutch seaside town, a Mr H. Duiker, said at the official twinning ceremony in 1962: "The two towns have so much in common that any link with any other town could hardly have been considered." Frank Jones, then mayor of Lowestoft, said: "I cannot think of any better fraternity than the people who get their living from the sea. There are no frontiers between us and the only thing that divides us is the sea."

For 30 years the two towns



nurtured a bond that brought their local chess clubs into competition and even saw several marriages between their citizens.

Now, however, the proud East Anglian port has learnt that its civic charms, including miles of golden sands and celebrated fish and chip shops, no longer appeal to its twin across the sea. Katwijk's mayor, Boel van Wouwe, and the

deputy town clerk, Jan Mulder, visited last week to explain politely that they were ending the link with Waveney District Council, which took over from Lowestoft Borough Council in 1974.

The reason for the split is apathy: the 40,000 citizens of Katwijk see little point in civic ties with the most easterly town in England. They are, in short, bored with Lowestoft.

"There is little point in going on with twinning if no one is interested in it," Mr van Wouwe said. He pointed out that a campaign to promote travel to Lowestoft three years ago had aroused no response.

"Our ending of the twinning agreement is nothing personal against Lowestoft. We all like the town. But our council decided that a twinning agreement had to involve the community, not just the local authorities," Mr van Wouwe added.

"In the last few years there have been hardly any visits between the towns. We decided it was best not to have a 'sleepy' twinning. Absolutely no insult to Lowestoft is intended, although we have heard they are rather upset."

In Lowestoft, which originated as a Danish settlement, officials put a brave face on the news and discounted suggestions that Katwijk was seeking

a more exciting twin, such as Brighton. Malcolm Berridge, chief executive of Waveney council, said: "They told us there had not been a response from their community at large to develop things further. The links started between us many years ago and things have changed. They seem to have exhausted their interest in us."

"Although there will no longer be civic visits, I am sure the relationships between individuals in the Lowestoft area and in Katwijk will continue. It is certainly not ending on a

sour note and the Dutch will be most welcome to come and see us any time. I would not class what has happened as an international incident."

Trevor Carter, council chairman, said: "We are very proud of Lowestoft and, although there have been some knocks over the years, we now feel we are on the way up."

The Suffolk town has the consolation of being twinned with Plaisir in France. Mr Berridge said he had heard no suggestion that the Dutch considered Lowestoft boring.

"It is just not true that there is nothing to do in Lowestoft. The thousands of visitors we have every year would vouch for that. We never had any shortage of things to show the Dutch when they came over on official visits every four years."

He said the town, which has 60,000 residents, was not a cultural desert: there was the Pleasurewood Hills theme park, two theatres, a variety of restaurants, and a pavilion complex.

In any case, it was not hard

to find those in Lowestoft yesterday who pointed out that Katwijk did not exactly lie at the pulsating heart of Holland. It has 40,000 residents and is one of the largest municipalities in the dune and flower-bulb area. A vast modern industrial estate dominates the economy, which used to depend on fishing and farming.

The town has a lighthouse, a museum, a whitewashed church dating from 1460, the inevitable windmill ... and not much else.



Lowestoft's attractions, including an award-winning beach, have paled with the citizens of Katwijk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Guinness squatters evicted

Squatters living in tents and huts on a derelict site owned by Guinness in Wandsworth, southwest London, are to be evicted after the High Court granted a possession order.

Last week, the inhabitants of the township — dubbed "Pure Genius" — won a reprieve because of a legal technicality. But at a ten-minute private hearing yesterday they offered no defence to the repossession claim.

Woman held

A woman was being questioned by Southampton detectives after three attempted abductions of children in pushchairs. Extra uniformed and plainclothes police had been patrolling the city centre shopping area.

Force justified

A green grocer who tackled a robber, fracturing his skull and breaking his ribs and fingers, will not be prosecuted, police said. Ken Dixon, 49, from Barnsley, South Yorkshire, had used reasonable force, it was decided.

Sentence cut

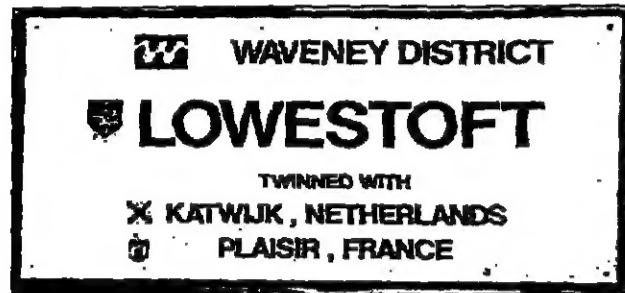
Bernard Enrie, 18, given six years' youth custody for his part in an attack a year ago on the husband of Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has had his sentence cut at the Court of Appeal to four years.

£3.5m court win

Silverstone Circuit, owner of the Formula One Grand Prix track, won a £3.5 million High Court settlement from its former solicitors Hedall, Erskine and Co, for wrong advice over the purchase in 1992 of a retail car business.

Buyout cleared

The European Commission has cleared the purchase by France's Compagnie Générale d'Entreprises Automobiles, which belongs to Compagnie Générale des Eaux, of the British Rail subsidiary Network SouthCentral.



Signing off: the town's Dutch link has been severed

Victorian bylaw could clean Squeegee boys off Brighton streets

By BILL FROST

POLICE in Brighton are dusting off a long-forgotten bylaw to rid the streets of a modern-day nuisance, the "Squeegee boy" car windscreen washer. Prosecutions against three of them are already being considered: other forces, including the Metropolitan Police, are awaiting the outcome with interest.

Brighton's campaign was launched by Sergeant Peter Ewen, who bore the brunt of complaints from drivers abused or intimidated by the sometimes aggressive young men with buckets and Squeegees. They are

reported to earn up to a £1,000 a week, with motorists paying £1 for a 30-second wipe of an often clean screen.

Sergeant Ewen said that in the past some women drivers had abandoned their cars in fear at one notorious Brighton junction, Preston Circus, where many of the screen-washers gather. There have also been violent confrontations. In 1993, Simon Ferguson was jailed for six months after attacking a driver at traffic lights in the town. Sean Blackman, his victim, wore a neck brace for almost a year after being punched.

Trawling through the statute books,

Sergeant Ewen came across the 1882 Municipal Corporation Act which, he believed, gave Sussex Police the powers they needed to act. "It says 'no person shall, on any street or public place, for the purpose of selling or advertising any article or obtaining custom or employment, tout or importune to the annoyance or obstruction of passengers'. The word 'passenger' means road users who are definitely annoyed and sometimes obstructed by them. If the washer boys are successfully prosecuted they face fines up to £1,000."

One of the first Squeegee boys in

Brighton was Steve North, a then unemployed actor who abandoned his trade and went on to star in the successful ITV series *London's Burning*. "I did it for a bit of extra cash and all the drivers were really friendly," he said. "I noticed a couple of people have become aggressive in their manner, but others just make me laugh."

Another practitioner of the art, who only wanted to be referred to as Steve, denied that he and his colleagues were a public nuisance. He said: "If they do get rid of us with this daft old law, I reckon a lot of drivers will miss the service we offer."



A Squeegee merchant in action at Preston Circus

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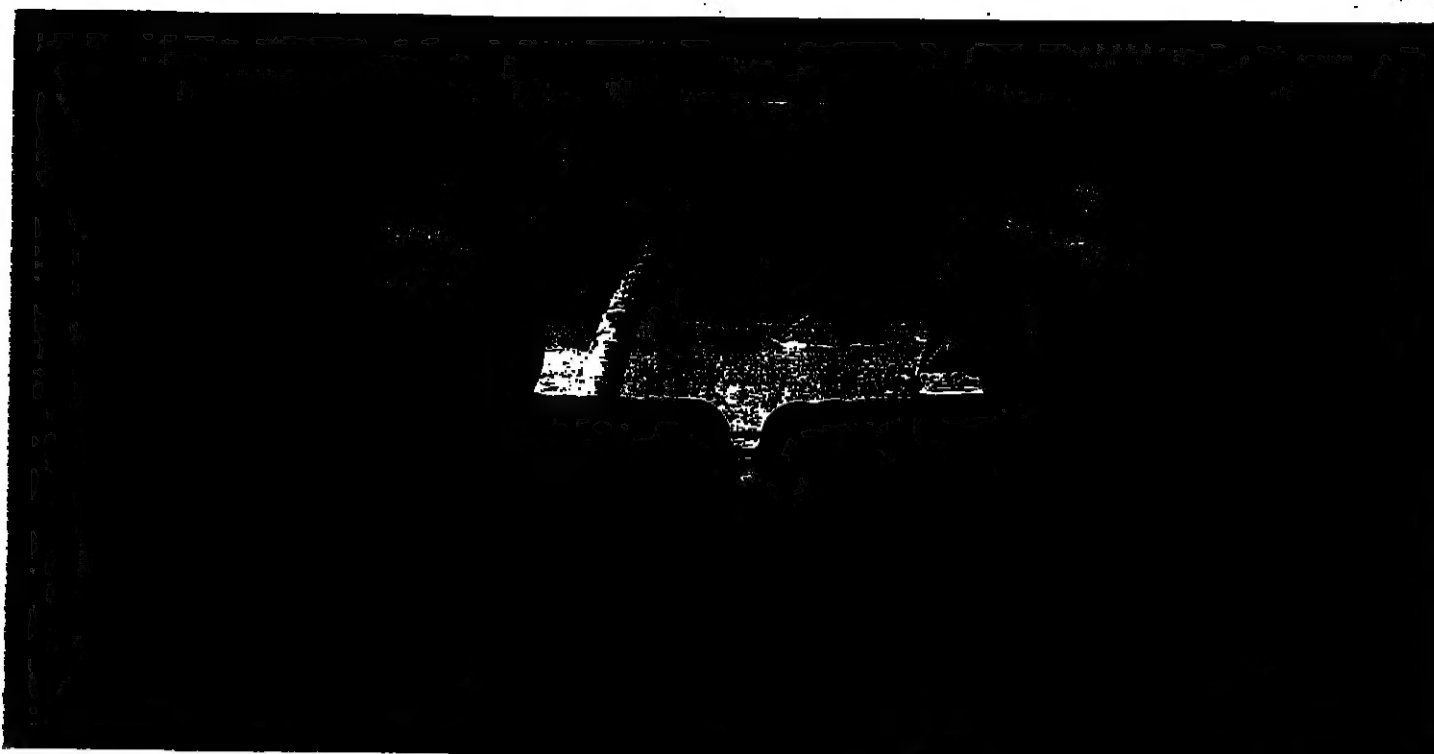
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Experiment gave pioneer Jaymee an extra year of life

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE private doctor who agreed to treat Jaymee Bowen, the girl who died on Tuesday night, took a huge risk. The experimental treatment — donor lymphocyte infusion — had been given to only a handful of children before.

Dr Peter Gravett, consultant haematologist at the private Portland Hospital for Women and Children in central London, decided to give Jaymee the treatment only after a chance encounter at a medical conference in Switzerland a week after he had started her on her third course of chemotherapy. Two specialists who had used the

treatment in adults persuaded him that it could work for Jaymee.

The treatment was opposed by the 22 NHS centres specialising in childhood cancer on the ground that it was unethical to experiment on a child who was too young to give informed consent. It was for this reason that Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission refused to fund the treatment.

Donor lymphocyte infusion involves clearing the leukaemia cells with chemotherapy and then flooding the body with lymphocytes (white blood cells) from the bone marrow of a compatible donor — in this case Jaymee's sister Charlotte.

However, the treatment can trigger a

I've had four lots of treatment already and there just comes a time when you can't go on with it. You just give up?

reaction in which the immune system attacks the body with horrific consequences. Professor Ross Pinkerton, an expert on acute myeloid leukaemia at the Royal Marsden Hospital, southwest London, and one of those who originally treated Jaymee, said that these were in the book *Jaymee: the Story of Child B*, by Sarah Barclay, the *Panorama* reporter who made a pro-

gramme about her last years. "You can lose the surface of the skin over almost the entire body. The cells can also act against the liver and the bowel... I read somewhere earlier in this controversy that dying of leukaemia was no worse than dying from the side-effects of experimental treatment. This is simply not the case."

The reaction is called graft-vs-host

disease and in Jaymee's case was kept in check until her final months, when it settled in her lungs. She began to have difficulty breathing. It became painful to swallow and sometimes she was so short of breath that she could hardly climb stairs.

Interest in donor lymphocyte infusion has been intense as its successful use in adults has become clear. The Royal Marsden has now agreed a trial in children. Had Jaymee sought the treatment six months later, she would probably have been granted it on the NHS. Stephen Thornton, chief executive of Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission, said yesterday: "Medical science moves on and the decision we

took 12 months ago might have been different had we faced it today." Although the treatment bought Jaymee an extra year of life, she seemed less certain recently whether she would go through it all again. "I'd give up straight away," she said. "I've had four lots of treatment already and there just comes a time when you can't go on with it. You just give up. Four times is too much."

Asked if she was prepared for death, she said: "There's nothing to be scared of and hopefully it won't be painful. I don't want to die, but if I do and there is an afterlife, I want to come back as a butterfly."

Body and Mind, page 18

Grieving staff deny that they abandoned girl

THE HEALTH AUTHORITY

THE NHS officials who refused to fund Jaymee Bowen's experimental treatment defended their decision yesterday. Stephen Thornton, chief executive of Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission, said he had been angered by suggestions that the authority had abandoned care of the girl.

"She had years of treatment on the National Health Service. It was only the particular experimental treatment that was requested which we refused. We never denied her treatment because we could not afford it, but because expert clinical opinion at the time was that it was not the right thing to do."

After the experimental treatment was completed, the girl's ordinary care had been paid for by the NHS, he said. "We are paying regardless of the cost. The care was needed, and that is what the NHS is there for."

Mr Thornton said the authority had been saddened by Jaymee's death. "We had been led to believe that she was doing pretty well, so it was a shock. We are very sorry and our hearts go out to the family. It must be very difficult for them. It has been a wretched year for everybody."

"The health commission has been in a difficult position. These decisions are

always tortuous. We have been very consistent in our view. If we were asked again, we would do exactly what we did last year, which was to seek clinical opinions of the highest order. We would talk to the experts in the field at the NHS's best institutions and we would then act on the basis of those opinions. If medical science has moved on since then, we would have to give it more thought."

Dr Ron Zimmern, director of health policy and public health, said the commission greatly regretted the girl's death. "It is not a question of 'I told you so'. We have to distinguish very clearly between treatments that are established and treatments which different doctors feel differently about. Every clinical decision has to be taken in light of the needs of every patient living in our area."

"Experimental treatment like this is a very difficult issue. After all, we do not know whether she would have lived for a year, as she did, without this sort of treatment."

Dr Zimmern said the commission would carefully consider the issue of health service "rationing" of treatment. "It is very clear that the health authority has to take these decisions against a background of ethical values."



Jaymee with her father David and sister Charlotte, top, who helped to prolong a life that had its share of smiles

Father's words console doctor who dared

THE CONSULTANT

PETER GRAVETT, the consultant haematologist who treated Jaymee Bowen privately, said that the experiment had been worthwhile because it had given her another year of life. Conventional treatment would have given her only a few weeks, he said.

"The primary consideration has to be the patient in front of you, and so long as you are acting in their interests you are in the right. I had to look at all the options and pick the best one. I would do the same thing again in the same circumstances."

Dr Gravett said Jaymee's father, David Bowen, was glad the treatment had been undertaken. "He certainly felt the battle was worth it because of the amount of time it gave Jaymee. He packed a lot into that year. His parting words to me were, 'Don't let anybody tell you we failed.'"

"At least he feels he did everything possible. There weren't any untimely stones."

Dr Gravett said he would miss Jaymee, whom he had known for more than a year. "She was good company and we got on well. I will miss her almost as much as a member of my own family."

He said he had grown more optimistic that the girl might be cured as the months passed after the treatment.

But the reaction triggered by the treatment, known as graft-vs-host disease, had settled in her lungs and threatened her life. Giving drugs for the lung condition had switched off the treatment that had been keeping the leukaemia at bay and it had then returned.

"We did not know how ill she was when she came back in. Over the previous few weeks she had been getting problems with her breathing but when she came back into hospital there was a good prospect of her responding and going out again. But when the leukaemia came back we knew there was no chance of it going away."

"We got very close to success from the technical point of view but it was not possible to keep in check the process attacking her lungs."

Of her final day, Dr Gravett said: "She was fully conscious and talking in the afternoon and then suddenly in the evening she lost consciousness and died a few hours later."

"It is difficult to say whether she knew she was dying. I did say to her that her chest was getting better but that her blood was getting worse. She never picked up on that, though. I don't think she actually thought that was the end."

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Lloyd accused of misleading the party

Labour drops candidate tainted by terrorism

By JILL SHERMAN AND IAN MURRAY

THE Labour Party's ruling body yesterday deselected John Lloyd, the parliamentary candidate for Exeter, over his past links with terrorism in South Africa.

Last night Mr Lloyd said that he was "very disappointed and very angry" and that he would take legal advice on the decision. The National Executive Committee turned down an 11th-hour plea by his supporters, who had travelled to the party's London headquarters to lobby members at the meeting.

Mr Lloyd has admitted taking part in terrorism against South Africa's apartheid regime in the 1960s. He says that he was a driver with the African Resistance Movement (ARM) when it bombed targets such as radio masts and electricity pylons in remote areas.

He also gave evidence in the 1960s against an ARM colleague, John Harris, who was hanged for the 1964 bombing of a Johannesburg rail station, in which a woman died.

Labour headquarters said there was no right of appeal against the NEC's decision, taken because Mr Lloyd had "misled" it over his involvement in ARM activities. The executive had warned him in March that it would deselect



Lloyd: very angry and disappointed

him if he refused to stand down as parliamentary candidate.

In another move aimed at protecting Labour's credibility, the NEC disbanded the party's group on Hackney council in London after a dispute over the choice of mayor. Almost half the Labour councillors had refused to vote for the party's candidate.

The group has also been dogged by a series of allegations including vote-rigging and dirty tricks. Many councillors had refused to follow the Labour whip and there were claims that an

unauthorised decision-making body called the Manifesto Group had been forming policy in private.

Labour headquarters has been conducting an investigation into the council over the past six weeks, interviewing members and taking written evidence. Yesterday the NEC considered the report and decided that the group should be disbanded for a week, losing all its influence over council policymaking.

The group will be restored only if the councillors decide to abide by the rules and vote together. All 39 group members will be summoned to a meeting, probably next week, when they will be asked to confirm in writing that they will abide by Labour's standing orders and will obey the party whip. Any councillor who subsequently fails to toe the party line will be suspended.

One official said: "It was felt that in order to restore discipline they had to disband the group." He pointed out that four members of the group — the council leader, chairman, secretary and the chief whip — would not be affected and would still be able to take executive decisions. The council will continue to carry out its functions and all 39 Labour

members will continue to be councillors.

The dispute in the Labour group came to a head at the mayor-making meeting last week. Twenty councillors voted for Linda Hibberd, who was a leader of a campaign last October that won the reinstatement of a housing director who had been sacked for racism but subsequently cleared of the accusation. The other 19 obeyed instructions from the chief whip to support Sharon Patrick, who had the backing of the NEC.

Mrs Hibberd was supported by all the Tory and Liberal Democrat councillors and was elected by 33 votes to 19. Philip Pearson, one of the Labour rebels, said that he and his colleagues had been warned that they were liable to be disciplined by the party if they failed to vote for her.

The NEC ordered a re-run of the selection contest in Glasgow Govan because of flaws in the original voting procedure. In December Mike Watson, MP for Glasgow Central, won the candidacy by one vote over Mohammed Sarwar. Mr Sarwar, a businessman, appealed and the executive concluded that many of the voters were ineligible. The new ballot will be held on June 24.



Exeter Labour Party members demonstrating their support for John Lloyd before the NEC meeting yesterday

Battle of ideas is not yet won, says Blair

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has admitted that Labour has not yet won the ideological battle on which a general election victory depends.

The Labour leader says that the main problem facing the party is to come up with inspirational ideas that are also practical and realistic. He suggests that the best way of achieving this is to go beyond party politics and set up a more open relationship with "the new intelligentsia."

In an article to be published in Prospect magazine next week he says

that values and ideas still provide the basis for policy decisions. "They give shape to a movement and meaning to a programme."

He cites David Marquand, professor of politics at Sheffield University, who said in a recent article that one of the safest rules of politics was that decisive victories followed ideological victories. Professor Marquand said: "Like armies sweeping through fortifications flattened by aerial bombardment, the Attlee and Thatcher governments beat demoralised opponents whose ideas had come to seem risible or contemptible or both."

Mr Blair says: "Labour is not yet at that

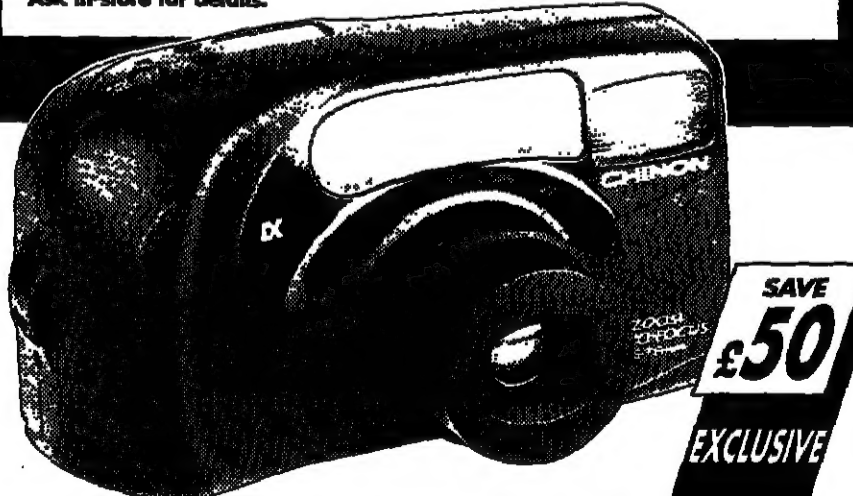
stage. The synthesis we achieved in 1945, or the Tories managed after 1979, does not come easily."

He goes on to argue that the challenge for a modern political party is to recognise "difficult realities" while providing a programme and message which appeals both to activists and voters. "To put it another way: the task is to combat apathy and disillusionment with politics without sacrificing realism and credibility." He suggests that the only way now to free political debate and encourage new ideas is to use a coalition of thinkers that includes both politicians and intellectuals.

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Army wives fight housing sell-off

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government came under pressure from army wives yesterday to drop the planned sell-off of almost 60,000 military homes.

The women warned ministers of "irretrievable damage" to service life if the privatisation of the Married Quarters Estate goes ahead. They said it would harm morale, recruitment and the Army's operational effectiveness, and could prompt many resignations.

Under the scheme, the Government could raise £2 billion selling the homes to the private sector and renting them back. Several consortiums have made bids for the property and the winner will be announced later this summer.

Critics say the move has been forced on service chiefs simply to pay for tax cuts and compensation to beef farmers. Senior officers have made their opposition known and prompted the Commons Defence Select Committee to carry out an investigation. Cherry Milne, chairman of

the Army Families Federation, told the committee yesterday that the sale would mean fewer homes being available. Soldiers returning to Britain at short notice would be forced to live outside of army communities. "We will lose the integrated community spirit," she said. "If families can't cope in this new isolated situation they will take their husbands out of the Army or the husbands will say 'Enough. I don't want to see my family going through that.'"

Defence officials rejected Mrs Milne's claims, arguing that the sell-off would improve army housing and make its availability more flexible.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: The Commons rose for the White Paper. Business will resume on June 4.

TODAY in the Lords: Disabled Persons and Carers (Short-term Breaks) Bill, third reading; Law Reform (Year and a Day) Bill, third reading; debate on academic research careers for graduates scientists; Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill, committee stage on protecting the Public White Paper.

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Guitar aces tip Hendrix to lead their rock of ages

BY ADRIAN LEE



Peel: believes such lists are self-indulgent

More than half the experts chose Hendrix, who died in 1970. The radio presenter John Peel, who was not

Eric Clapton, left, No 6 on the list, was described variously as "overrated" and "entertaining" while Jimi Hendrix, top, was the runaway favourite. Andy Summers of the Police, right, was cited as "a glaring omission" but Noel Gallagher of Oasis left the critics distinctly underwhelmed

He said there were several serious omissions: Duane Eddy; Dick Dale, whose surf music was repopularised by the film *Pulp Fiction*; and

of *The Times*, said: "In my view the most glaring omission is Andy Summers of the Police. I think he will be really insulted because there are people in that list who are not in his class. Clapton is overrated — he has done

The concert promoter Harvey Goldsmith, who has worked with the top ten guitarists and many others in the leading 100, said: "There can be no dispute about Hendrix — he was the best, extraordinary, because he

at two — he is the most entertaining guitarist there has ever been. It is good to see Jeff Beck so high [13] because he is very underrated and, in my view, one of the best." Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits was another who might feel uneasy

Johnny "Guitar" Watson, Chicago, page 32

Johnny "Guitar" Watson,
obituary, page 23

TOP 50

- 2 Jimi Hendrix
- 3 Steve Cropper (Booker T and the MGs)
- 3 Peter Green (Fleetwood Mac)
- 4 Keith Richards
- 5 Chuck Berry
- 6 Eric Clapton
- 7 Jimmy Page
- 8 T-Bone Walker
- 8 Neil Young
- 10 Richard Thompson
- 11 BB King
- 12 Jimmy Nolan (James Brown)
- 13 Jeff Beck
- 14 Stavie Ray Vaughan
- 15 Pete Townshend
- 16 George Harrison
- 17 Robert Johnson
- 18 Charlie Christian
- 18 Guitar Slim
- 20 Johnny Ramone
- 21 Eddie Van Halen
- 21 Roy Cooder
- 23 Johnny Marr (The Smiths)
- 24 Hubert Sumlin (Howlin' Wolf)
- 25 Curtis Mayfield
- 26 James Burton
- 27 Elmore James
- 28 Frank Zappa
- 29 J J Mascis (Dinosaur Jr)
- 30 Buddy Guy
- 31 Freddie King
- 32 The Edge
- 33 Prince
- 34 Tom Verlaine (Television)
- 35 Jerry Garcia (The Grateful Dead)
- 36 Sister Rosetta Tharpe
- 37 Eddie Cochran
- 38 Roger McGuinn
- 39 Duane Allman
- 40 Link Wray
- 41 Robbie Robertson
- 42 Bert Jansch
- 43 Chet Atkins
- 44 Hank Marvin
- 45 Robert Lockwood
- 46 Scotty Moore (Elvis's guitarist)
- 47 Elton Sharnlin (Bob Wills, Texas Playboys)
- 48 Bo Diddley
- 49 Lowell George (Little Feat)
- 50 Ron Ashton (The Stooges)

By Paul Wilkinson

Professor Taylor, 45, who has worked in the university's control and robotics department for 17 years, intends to

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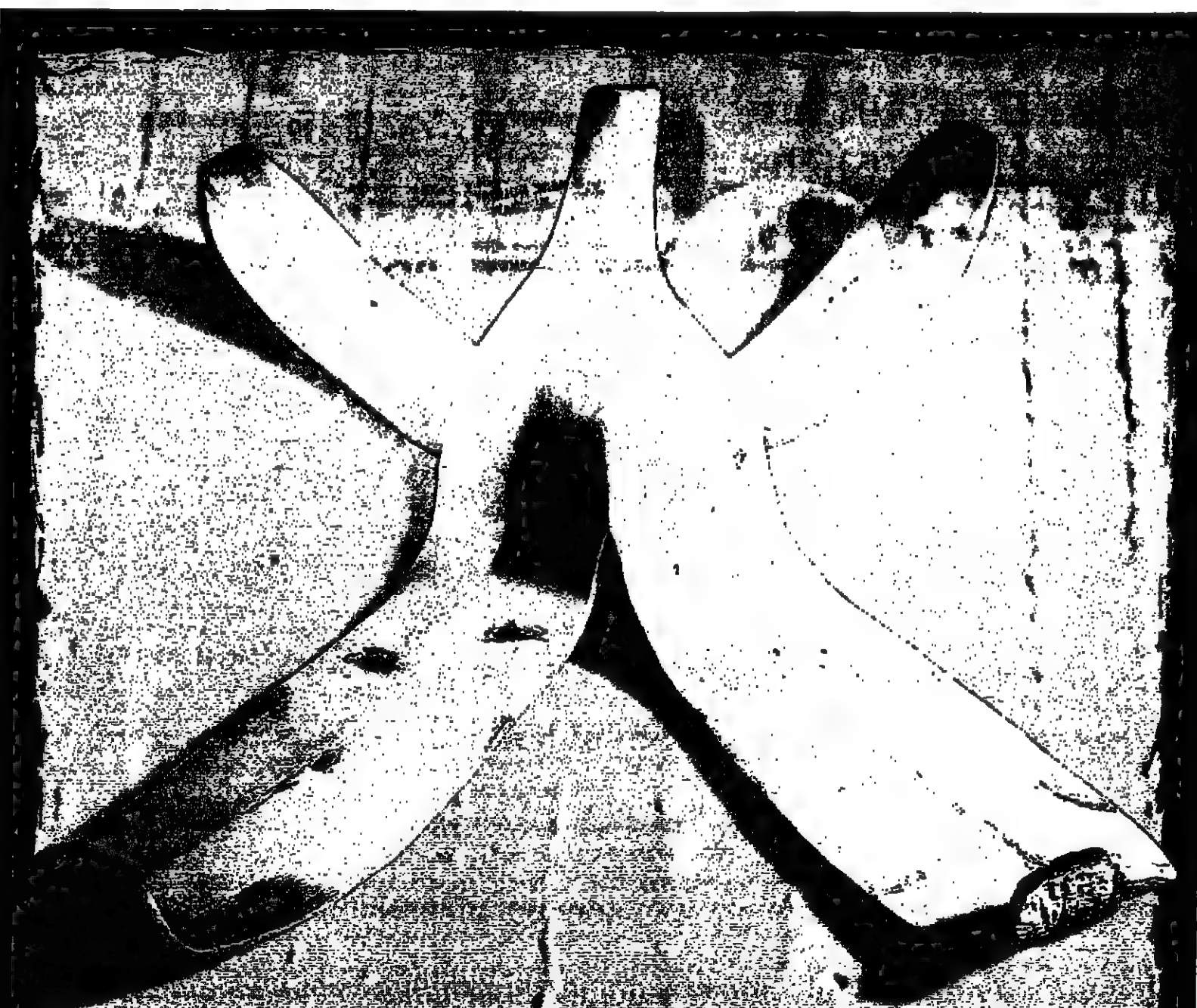
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Britain launches campaign to block Union's decisions

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN launched its blocking campaign in Brussels yesterday with an announcement to its partners to expect disruption until it won satisfaction on beef. National officials across the Continent and in the European Commission denounced the action, in terms ranging from pointless to blackmail.

While Europe was reacting to John Major's stark increase in hostilities in his battle for British beef, the Commission proclaimed business as usual and endorsed a new proposal for member states partly to lift the ban. Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, was confident that the measure would pass. Even if it fails to gain the requisite majority at an agriculture ministers' meeting on June 3, it is likely to be enacted by the Commission alone under the terms of the European Union treaty.

Stephen Wall, the British Ambassador to the Union, told a session of the inter-governmental conference, the Maastricht treaty review, that he could no longer put Britain's signature to the minutes of their meetings. It fell to David Bostock, his deputy, to announce to a regular diplomatic council that "pending a resolution... the UK's ability to contribute to EU business is bound to be impaired".

Britain is continuing to take part in negotiations at all levels of EU business, but it intends to register formally its reservations on proposals being put forward for decision at ministerial level. It would then be able to block final decisions due to be taken on the basis of unanimity.

The first casualty was a European convention for dealing with bankruptcies, already approved by the other 14 states. Britain had been expected to endorse it after failing to sign it for several months. The next move will come today at a ministerial-level meeting where Britain will refuse to agree a joint action programme on civil protection in disasters. The impact will be limited, however, since Britain had been expected to block the action in any event.

Britain's existing position as the main source of obstruction to EU decisions limited the impact of an offensive that is, on the face of it, more sweeping than any applied since

France boycotted the business of the Common Market in 1965. Commission officials and EU diplomats noted that the Union was unlikely in the early stages to notice much difference now that the Prime Minister had decided to withhold "Britain's goodwill".

"We are not impressed," said a senior Commission official involved in the single-market preparations. "We all know it is for home consumption." Most acknowledged, however, that a long campaign would lead to heavy disruption — not least, at the EU summit in Florence on June 21 which could be effectively hijacked by the British crisis. Some diplomats acknowledged that Mr Major's action could force governments to speed up moves to end the beef ban, but at a cost of destroying what remaining goodwill Britain still enjoys in the Union.

Much of the impact of the British campaign depends on the intensity of the guerrilla war against the Euro-machine. A full-scale work-to-rule could, for example, quickly jam the decision-making machinery even in areas where issues are decided by the majority rather than unanimously. Most vulnerable would be the practice by which EU ambassadors agree that ministers will not through uncontroversial decisions. Unanimous agreement is needed to determine these items, known in the jargon as "A-points". Subjecting each to full debate and voting would choke the ministerial councils.

British officials were uncertain yesterday of the level of resistance they were to apply, but there was no question of leaving an empty chair. One diplomat explained the reason with the French adage: "Les absents ont toujours tort" (The absent are always wrong).

Mr Wall, the British Ambassador, is due today to attend a regular session of Coreper, the ambassadors' decision-making committee. Among the items on which he may place Britain's reserve are decisions on implementing an accord with the United Arab Emirates and on "the conclusion of administrative arrangements on trade in textile products" between the EU and other countries.

Leading article and Letters, page 21

TACTICS

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Stephen Wall, Britain's man on the front line in the beef war, is a confidant of John Major and widely seen as a Euro-sceptic

Loyal lieutenant in Brussels firing line

By CHARLES BREMNER

WHILE the generals in Britain's European beef war fire off their orders from the safety of London, the frontline task of enforcing them falls to a slim, 49-year-old diplomat with a quiet style that masks a sharp negotiating bite.

The self-effacing manner of Stephen Wall, the British ambassador to the European Union and confidant of John Major, is the hallmark of a man who has won respect among his colleagues on the powerful Brussels council that runs the member states' decision-making machine.

"He's as sharp as a razor and on top of every dossier," said a French official close to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the club-like body of 15 ambassadors whose weekly meetings clear the way for government agreements. The practice in which many committee deals are later nodded through by ministers means the British ambassador has, in effect, the power to make British law.

Praise for his professional style is tempered by frustration among many continental officials over his role as the front man in what they see as the Government's long campaign of obstruction.

Mr Wall, who is also Britain's representative at the inter-governmental conference, the negotiations to revamp the Maastricht treaty, was Mr Major's expected choice to succeed Sir John Kerr in the politically sensitive post of UK Permanent Representative when he was made Washington ambassador last summer.

Mr Wall joined the Diplomatic

Service in 1968 and has not only served as Private Secretary to four Foreign Secretaries, but has worked as Mr Major's Private Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Defence in the early 1990s. Between Downing Street and Brussels, he served for two years in Lisbon as one of Britain's youngest ambassadors.

His close relationship with Mr Major inevitably labelled him with a reputation in Brussels and within sections of the Foreign Office as a Euro-sceptic.

Though never confirmed, it is widely thought he had a big input in an article in 1993 in which the Prime Minister proclaimed Euro-sceptic colours, saying the project for economic and monetary union

MAN IN THE NEWS

had "the quaintness of a rain dance and about the same potency" and branded as folly the Maastricht timetable for launching EMU.

Mr Wall was in close touch with Downing Street before Tuesday's Commons announcement, but colleagues would give nothing away on his advice to the Prime Minister. A conscientious civil servant, Mr Wall gives little away of his views, though he is refreshingly direct and lacks the formality of the old-style Britannic envoy.

The only blemish to an impeccable career was an implicit rebuke from Lord Justice Scott in his report on the arms-to-Iraq affair. Admitting the one error, he said he "did not act dishonourably".

Major is 'playing reckless game'

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN yesterday accused John Major of "breath-taking irresponsibility" over the beef crisis.

The Liberal Democrat leader said Mr Major was playing a reckless game with farmers' lives just to pander to his Euro-sceptic backbenchers.

Leading the British criticism of Mr Major's brinkmanship with Europe, he said: "This is an act of reckless desperation typical of the Prime Minister."

Mr Ashdown said he had been told by European coun-

Court case threatens consumer confidence

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of abattoir owners and cattle farmers is today starting legal action that could wreck the Government's strategy for restoring consumer confidence in beef.

Lawyers for the Quality Meat and Livestock Alliance will seek leave in the High Court to apply for a judicial review of the ban on the sale for food of cattle over 30 months old. They will argue that the ban is illegal.

"We are seeking an expedited proceeding because of the

ASHDOWN

terparts that the gelatine, tallow and semen ban was going to be lifted anyway and that Mr Major's "pathetic" move would probably be the only blocking point.

"The farmers are horrified by Mr Major's short-term moves," Mr Ashdown said. "What they need is help over the culling programme and co-operation with Europe. The derivative ban is only worth £35 million; the rest of British beef is worth over £500 million. That is what we must concentrate on."

He called on Mr Major to resign if the full ban had not been lifted by June.

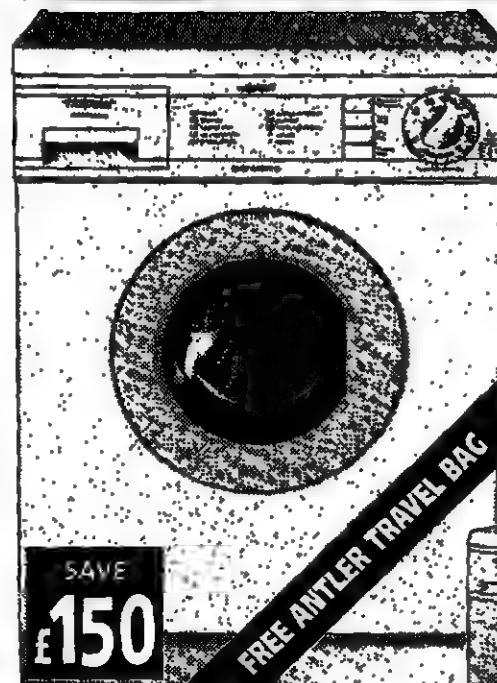
LEGAL ACTION

urgency of the case," Richard North, a food safety consultant who is advising the group, said.

If the legal challenge succeeds, it will be devastating. Retailers have been reeling since the ban was announced, and it now comes only from animals under 30 months old. Members of the alliance are furious because the cull of cattle over 30 months old includes not only barren dairy cows at the end of their useful working lives but tens of thousands of prime beef cattle, even though only 15 per cent of beef herds have ever had a case of BSE.

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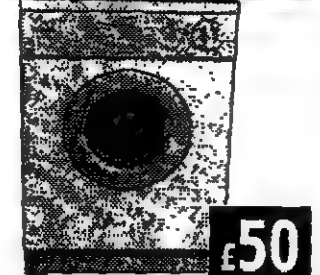
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Kohl seeks compromise amid trade war fears and cries of 'blackmail'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE head of Germany's powerful farmers' association, Constantin von Heereman, yesterday described as scandalous John Major's threat to block progress in Europe. "Instead of properly combating BSE at home, the British Government is resorting to political pressure, not to say blackmail, to relax the export ban," he said.

Herr von Heereman's outburst was not entirely typical of the German response to the new crisis in relations between Britain and the rest of the European Union. Bonn was in fact betraying signs of nervousness about possible British obstruction of EU

business. "We cannot afford this blockade; there must be room for an acceptable compromise," one official said. The chief cause for concern was the future of Eurpol, Helmut Kohl's cherished project to set up a European

Süddeutsche Zeitung wrote. "The worst thing that could happen now is a trade war between Britain and the rest of the European Union. The issue is no longer merely protection of consumers. Many experts doubt that the

cannot be completed until after the British general election. "The one good bit of news from Britain this morning," said a tired official, "is a suggestion that this mad cow row maybe a prelude to a summer election."

The German Government is still coming under domestic pressure to stand firm on BSE controls. However, Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, has kept open the possibility of future concessions to Britain.

The Cologne *Stadt-Anzeiger* certainly expressed the view of part of the Government when it declared: "Compromises are often necessary, but this time consistency is called for. British Euro-sceptics have now taken such a fundamentalist line that even concessions will not soothe them."

Herds with British cattle are being kept under tight scrutiny — one herd of 104 cattle has been slaughtered because of a sick cow — German butchers are going bankrupt, slaughterhouses are reporting huge losses, and Bavarian beef farmers alone are losing £7 million a month. There is still a priority, outlined again last night by Agriculture Ministry officials, to restore German confidence in German beef.

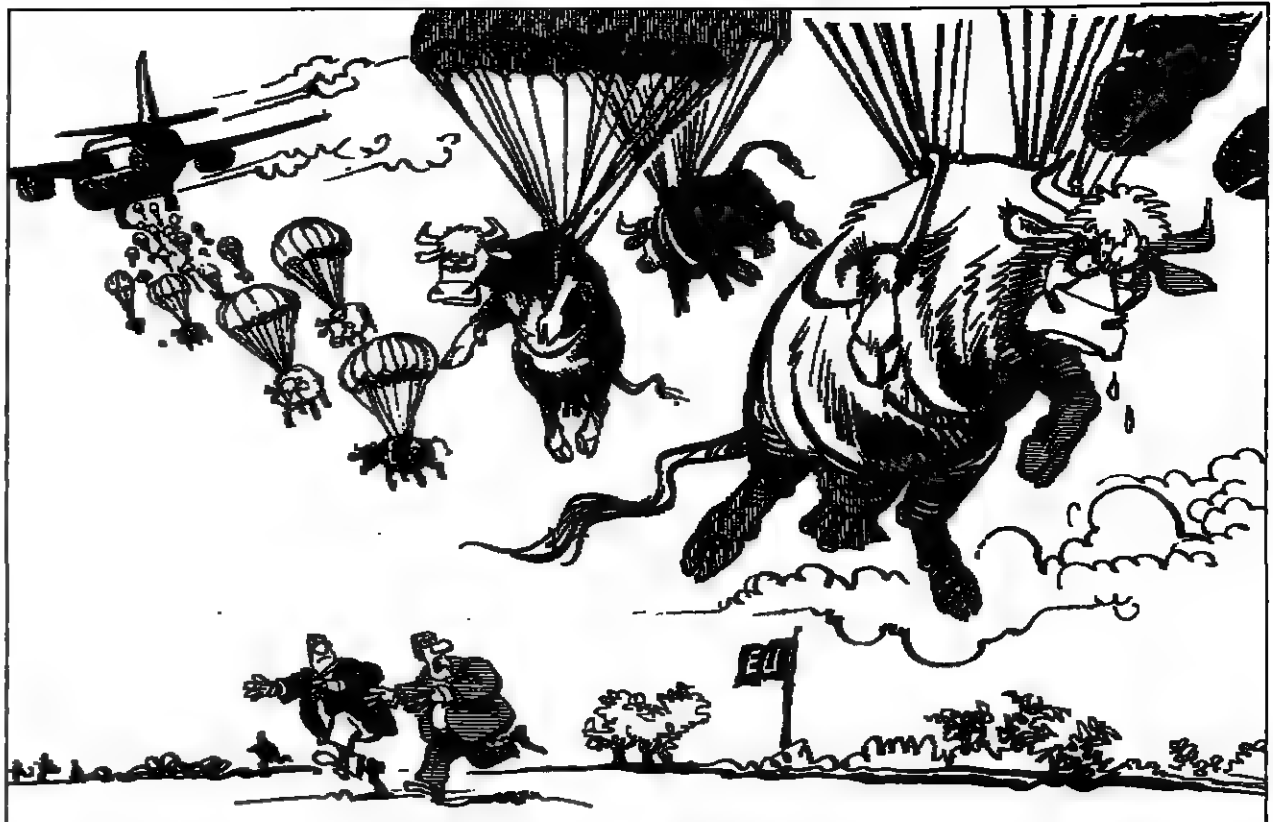
GERMANY

police intelligence network. Britain had objected to what it regarded as the exaggerated role of the European Court of Justice in arbitrating disputes within Eurpol which functions in The Hague as a drugs unit. Recently there were signs that Britain would give ground, allowing Eurpol to have its own legal convention and expand its activities. But hopes seem to have been scuttled by the dispute over the ban on British beef imports.

The German press — even the usually strident *Bild* — was reluctant to take on the British media, parts of which appeared to be on a war footing. While *The Sun* demanded a boycott of German beer and German pornography, most German newspapers called for limited concessions. "The European Union has manoeuvred itself into a dilemma," the liberal

tough line on beef byproducts is justified. The Union will have to make an acceptable offer to Britain, even if it has only symbolic value." The influential Bonn *General Anzeiger* issued a warning that, if a joint solution is not found soon, Britain will eventually be driven out of the European house. The *Westdeutsche Allgemeine* called for steady nerves. "Let us hope that European governments will keep cool in the face of British threats. There is no reason to become infected by British tempers, any more than there is reason to yield to blackmail."

There is no real concern that the British blockade will in some way undermine the inter-governmental conference (IGC). Britain is isolated on most issues of European institutional reform and Germany has made clear that the IGC



"I always knew that the British would fight back" — Horst Haitzinger's view of events in the t2 daily newspaper

Blair presses Prodi to get ban lifted

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

TONY BLAIR will today seek to persuade Italy, the current holder of the European Union presidency, to intervene with the European Commission to lift the ban on British beef and defend the "increasingly poisonous" relationship between Britain and Europe.

Britain of using "blackmail", while Italian diplomats issued a warning that the EU summit in Florence in a month's time could be seriously disrupted.

ITALY

setting back the timetable for a single currency. Mr Blair, regarded in Rome as the British Prime Minister in waiting, flies here today to

hold talks with Romano Prodi, the economics professor whose Centre-Left alliance won last month's elections. In interviews with the Italian press yesterday, Mr Blair said Italy's new left-wing Government and New Labour had "common challenges" and should use their natural affinity to resolve European issues.

Yesterday Signor Prodi, who will chair the Florence meeting marking the end of Italy's six-month presidency, outlined his programme to parliament at the start of a confidence debate. He put economic and monetary union and Italy's budget deficit reduction at the top of the agenda, alongside devolution of power to the regions to head off northern separatists, the fight against the Mafia, privatisation and job creation.

But *Corriere della Sera* said Mr Blair shared John Major's inability to grasp continental mistrust of Britain over "mad cow" disease. Mr Blair told *La Repubblica* that, although the

Conservative Government had made "mistakes", there were no longer scientific reasons for keeping the embargo on British beef in force. "The problem is one of reassuring European public opinion, and explaining to Europeans that eating beef is not a health hazard," Mr Blair was quoted as saying.

But Signor Dini said that Mr Major was using "strong-arm tactics and blackmail" which could not resolve the issue. Signor Dini, who as interim Prime Minister presided over March's Turin summit launching the Maastricht review process only to watch it being hijacked by BSE, said the mad cow dispute was a "mine which must be defused fast". He did not believe Mr Major would carry out his threat to disrupt EU business through "non-co-operation", and Italy was using its "excellent relations" with Britain to find a compromise before the Florence meeting.

Fruit farms fear they will feel retaliation

FROM TUNKE VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

THE Spanish daily newspaper ABC yesterday attributed John Major's tough line on the beef embargo to pressure from the Euro-sceptic wing of the Conservative Party, as well as from "an incandescent press". The newspaper said that Mr Major would "torpedo" all future European Union decision-making if London's demands were not met swiftly.

El Mundo, for its part, gave prominence to the views of Loyola de Palacio, the Span-

ish Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries. She said Spain could not accept a free circulation of British beef and bovine derivatives "until the United Kingdom presents an authentic eradication plan".

SPAIN

The paper reported that Spain could now find itself on Britain's "blacklist", and that an angry Mr Major might now block community business "that is in Spain's interest, in the fruit and vegetable sector".

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Spanish border checks tightened

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SPAIN has responded to the conciliatory new Government in Gibraltar by imposing even greater obstacles on travellers wishing to cross its border with the British colony.

Angry drivers report that the Spanish authorities have resorted to deliberate delays. The "double filter", by which cars entering and leaving Spain are checked twice and which the British Government has often described as "unacceptable", has been applied recently with exceptional rigour.

Vehicles leaving Gibraltar, in particular, have had to wait for up to two and a half hours at the border as Spanish immigration has reduced the flow of cars to eight to ten an hour. Weary Gibraltarians fear the authorities will soon revert to turning cars back if, for example, drivers did not have such things as fire-extinguishers, rubber gloves and spare pairs of spectacles.

The frontier queue information hotline, a public telephone service which provides Gibraltarians with an estimate

ed waiting time at the border, has been inundated with calls.

Some Spanish politicians have, however, come out publicly in favour of easier border clearance. César Braña, the caretaker Civil Governor of Cádiz and the man who devised the "double filter", has suggested that the checks be discontinued, arguing that Peter Caruana, the colony's

Man held over Briton's murder

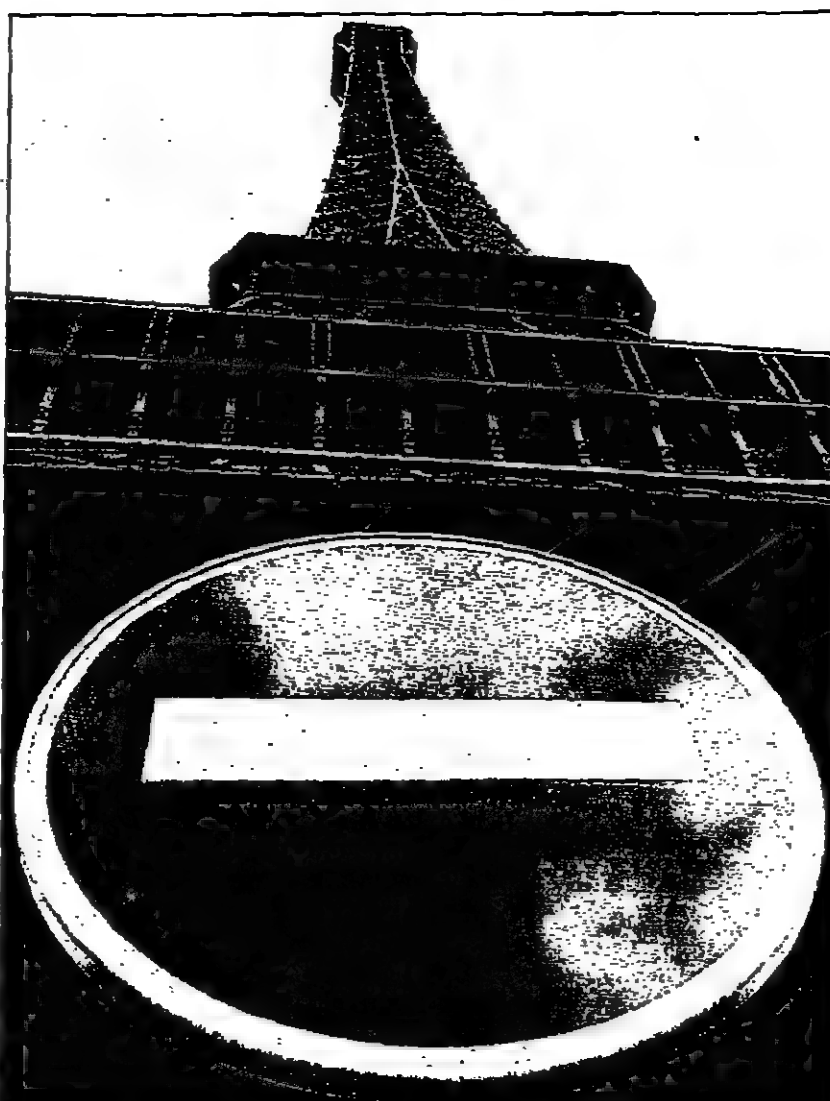
Gibraltar: A 19-year-old Spaniard has been charged with the murder of Private Deshae Gary Lodge, 26, of the Royal Anglian Regiment, who died last Thursday (Dominique Searle writes). He was struck by a bottle in the Kiss disco in Gibraltar on May 11.

Daniel Ortero Arguez, from La Línea, was remanded in custody by the Gibraltar magistrates' court yesterday.

new Chief Minister, "appears to be sincere about dialogue". José Antonio Fernández Pons, the Mayor of the impoverished border town of La Línea, a number of whose citizens rely on employment in Gibraltar, has also attacked the measures. According to the *Gibraltar Chronicle*, Señor Fernández Pons said that Spain should find "measures to improve relations at a human and economic level".

These measures appear not to be forthcoming from the Spanish Foreign Ministry, however. In an interview with ABC on Saturday, Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, repeated what is becoming his habitual position: "If the situation demands it, I will not hesitate for a moment to propose a closure of the gate to Gibraltar."

His statement, made a day after Mr Caruana's election, has been received with dismay in Gibraltar. Voters there gave their mandate to a new Government in the belief that tensions with Spain would soon be eased.



Strikers shut the Eiffel Tower for the third day in succession yesterday

French gear up for summer of protest

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AFTER a bitter winter of discontent and an uneasy springtime truce, France is steeling itself for a summer of industrial unrest as civil servants and public-sector workers threaten another round of strikes, stoppages and demonstrations.

The protests begin today with a "day of action" and marches by white-collar unions to demand reduced working hours.

Last week, as the French parliament began debating budget cuts for next year, estimated at Fr60 billion (£8 billion), Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, said the Civil Service, which employs more than two million people, needed to shed "layers of excess fat".

UNSA, the public-sector union with 400,000 members, accused the Government of "organising the destruction of the public services" and called for a national demonstration on Wednesday when teachers and police will march once again through the streets of Paris.

As with last winter, public-sector anger over threatened Civil Service cuts has merged with other issues: unions have already called for a 24-hour strike on June 4 in opposition to plans for the partial privatisation of France Telecom, and gas and electricity unions, fearing deregulation of the energy industry, are

planning another one-day strike on June 5.

The communist-led CGT union has also called for mass rallies and protest marches on June 6 when railway workers, who spearheaded last winter's crippling 24-day transport strike, will march from the Gare Saint-Lazare to parliament.

The Government is reportedly planning to phase out at least 30,000 Civil Service jobs over the next four years as part of a drive to cut the public-sector deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product, in line with the Maastricht treaty criteria for a single European currency.

Public-sector unions remain deeply volatile after last winter's partially successful campaign to scupper M Juppé's overhaul of the welfare system, and any attempt to scale back the Civil Service or its perks will meet vigorous resistance.

A sign of the increasingly aggressive union mood may be seen in the continuing three-day strike at the Eiffel Tower, usually visited by 15,000 people a day. Employees are enraged that they are being ousted from a car park directly beneath the landmark to another which is 150 yards away. The dispute at the most popular tourists venue in France is costing about £79,000 a day in lost revenue.

Historical Swiss nuclear

Liz Taylor's alimony row

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سكنا من الاول

Historian reveals Swiss plan for nuclear deterrent

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SWITZERLAND, famed for its armed neutrality, considered building a nuclear bomb and had a secret stockpile of uranium, according to an official report by a Swiss government military historian.

Although the putative nuclear weapons programme never went ahead, there was a government debate on whether to have a nuclear deterrent and the option remained open until 1988 when a special federal commission, charged with maintaining the technical and scientific capability to build a bomb, was finally deactivated.

For a country which has the biggest army per head of population in Europe (450,000 on mobilisation) and a huge network of nuclear fallout shelters to protect every Swiss citizen from a ballistic missile attack, this secret plan was the ultimate answer to Switzerland's historic obsession with guarding its territory.

Last night Philippe Tisserand, the spokesman for the

Swiss Foreign Ministry in Bern, confirmed that there had been a 20-year programme when Switzerland was in a position to build its own nuclear bomb. The federal commission was set up in 1969.

Details of the Swiss nuclear plans, which appear in the *New Scientist* magazine this week, were drawn up by Jürg Stüssi-Lauterburg, a military historian. He was given access to government documents on the secret programme and has just produced his report.

The historian disclosed that until 1981 the Swiss kept a store of uranium for potential military purposes at Wimmis, 20 miles southeast of Bern. He said the Swiss Government favoured using uranium to make nuclear bombs and discussed building a centrifuge plant to enrich the ore to weapons-grade material. In 1969, Switzerland tried unsuccessfully to acquire 3kg of weapons-grade plutonium from Norway.

In 1963, defence advisers

estimated the cost of producing a uranium nuclear bomb would be SwFr720 million (£400 million at today's rate). A plutonium bomb was estimated to cost at SwFr2 billion. In 1968, an internal defence committee reported that it would cost between SwFr100 million and SwFr175 million a year over 15 years to develop and produce 400 uranium warheads for aircraft, artillery and guided missile systems.

Mr Stüssi-Lauterburg said: "In an anarchic world we were prepared. If Germany developed nuclear weapons, then we would have built one to keep ourselves alive."

Mr Tisserand said that Switzerland did not breach the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which it signed in 1969 because the materials for a nuclear bomb, such as the uranium ore, had been acquired in the 1950s, before the document was signed. The treaty was not breached after 1969 because Switzerland never built a bomb, although it had the capability for years.



Helmut Kohl and President Mandela in Bonn yesterday where the South African leader addressed a packed German parliament, appealing for aid to help reform his country's economy

Gourmet summit for Kohl and Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, meet in Wisconsin today for what the White House calls a summit but others are dubbing the "Nosh of the Century".

Two of the world's most prominent trenchermen will eat together in one of Milwaukee's many fine German restaurants, but as Mike McCurry, Mr Clinton's press secretary, jokingly conceded: "It's not clear whether the working agenda for lunch will include items other than the menu."

A similar encounter in 1994 between the 15-stone American and the 21-stone German, whom Mr Clinton once likened to a sumo wrestler, has entered Washington folklore. They went to Filomena's, a Georgetown restaurant known for its giant portions, and heroically ate their way through hot and cold antipasti, fried calamari, a Tuscan soup with white beans, ravioli stuffed with veal, cheese and spinach, and generous portions of that coronary calamity, zabaglione, with mixed berries.

They then took away two large chocolate cakes with which one likes to imagine they rounded off their "pasta diplomacy" behind their limousine's tinted glass.

The president invited Herr Kohl to Milwaukee because Wisconsin has a huge German-American population and Mr Clinton badly needs to win the state in November's presidential election. Advance teams of American and German officials visited the city to sample possible restaurants, but their

choice remained a closely guarded secret yesterday. "For the hearty appetite a 90-year-old favourite on our menu is a roast pork shank," said Victor Mader, who has made a strong pitch for his restaurant. "It weighs in at about 2½lb. They might want to accompany that with potato dumplings and quaff it down with one of our 49 German beers... We're talking calories. This is for the gluttons among us."

Between mouthfuls the two men will discuss several weightier matters including Europe's objection to American legislation that would impose sanctions on foreign firms and executives who trade with Iran, Libya and Cuba. Germany does considerable business with Iran and believes it has helped moderate Tehran's conduct, but Washington believes the world's leading exporter of terrorism should be treated as a pariah. It is good election-year politics for Mr Clinton and he is not expected to relent.

Mr Clinton and Herr Kohl will discuss what to do if stability has not been established in Bosnia by the time the mandate of the US-led international peacekeeping force expires in December. The two leaders will also discuss next month's Russian presidential election and what to do if the communists oust President Yeltsin. Such an outcome would have a direct bearing on the other main item on their agenda, the eastward expansion of Nato for which Germany has been pressing hard.

Liz Taylor in alimony row

New York: Separated life is not suiting Liz Taylor's latest estranged husband, who says he is struggling to make ends meet on "bare expenses" of \$3,000 (£3,300) a month (writes Quentin Letts).

Larry Fortensky, a former building site worker, has started legal action to try to secure more money from the actress. He asked a court to overrule a prenuptial agreement that waived all "spousal support" in the event of the marriage breaking down.

He was Miss Taylor's seventh husband and although the union lasted five years, in February the actress demanded a divorce. He left the marital mansion in Bel Air and now occupies a more humble billet in Los Angeles.

Mr Fortensky, who is about 20 years younger than the 63-year-old actress, met her at the Betty Ford Clinic.

Madrid airport staff balk at monkey meat for diners

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SOME Spanish baggage handlers have refused to deal with luggage on flights from Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, after the discovery of rotting monkey meat in a suitcase.

There have been several reports of monkey meat entering the country in this way from Africa. It is said to arrive every Sunday at Madrid's Barajas airport on the weekly flight from Equatorial Guinea, Spain's former Central African colony, destined for the kitchens of Madrid's sizeable Guinean immigrant community, for whom the ape-flesh is a prized delicacy. The problem came to light when pieces of monkey — the feet, the rump and the head —

were discovered in a suitcase which had been checked in as part of the Guinean Embassy's "diplomatic bag". Baggage handlers in Madrid found themselves assaulted by a stench from the suitcase and were alarmed by what appeared to be bloodstains on the cloth cover, and alerted police and customs officials. The case and the rotting monkey meat were later incinerated.

Iberia, the Spanish airline, has now issued baggage handlers with protective gloves and masks. "I am sure a few monkeys arrive every time a plane lands from Guinea," one baggage-handler said. "But we can't really check each and every suitcase on

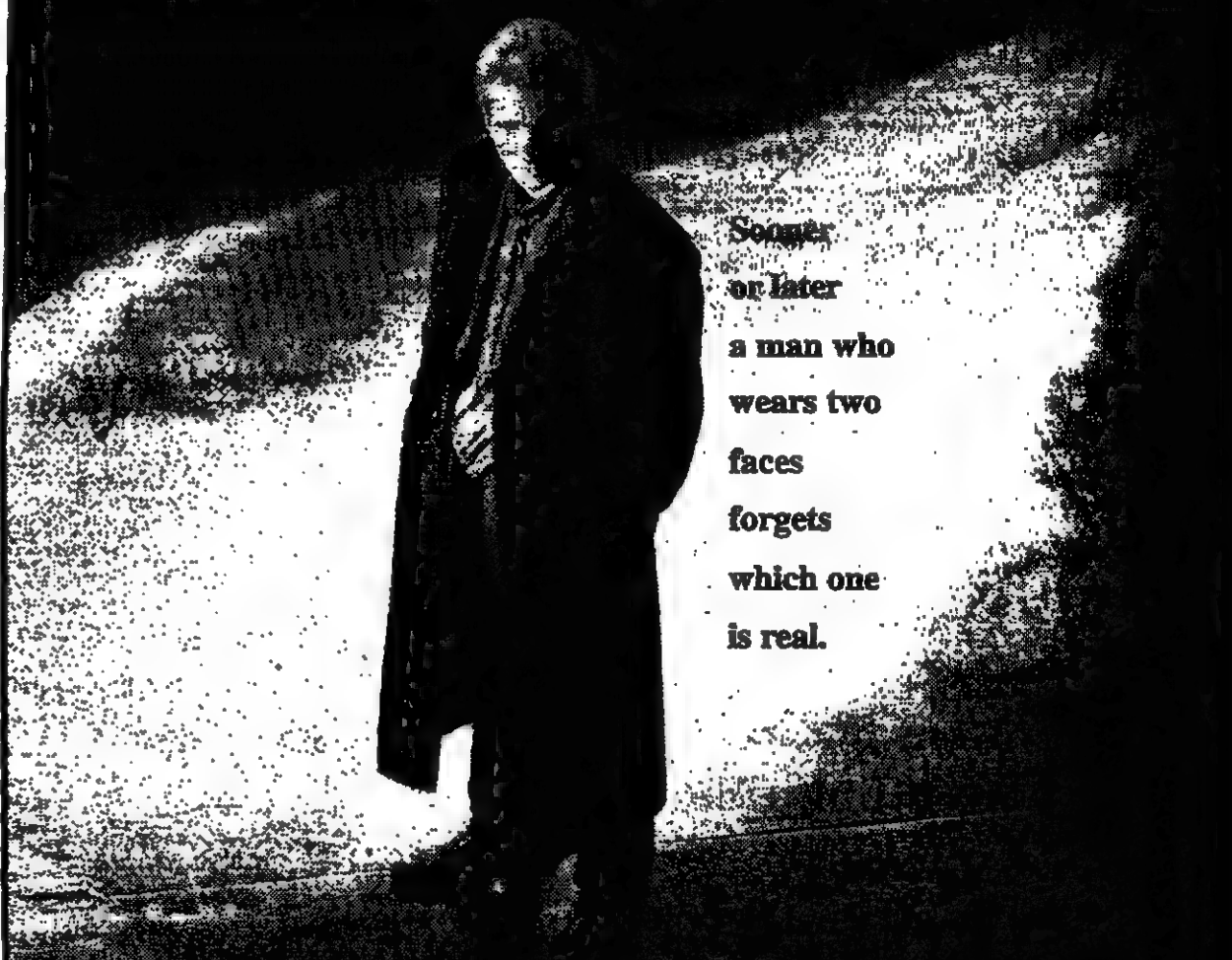
each and every flight." The meat, much prized by Guineans, is used in spiced stews and for grills.

Spanish law appears not to prohibit the consumption of monkey meat, but the country has strict sanitation regulations which require certification of animal products before their importation.

Spanish customs sources say that there is no certification process of any sort at Malabo airport, and that most of the shipments are made by individuals who pay no regard to customs regulations. There is a variety of monkey life in Equatorial Guinea, none of which is regarded as unfit for human consumption.

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Clinton under fire for attempt to postpone sex case

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS yesterday accused President Clinton, who dodged wearing a military uniform during the Vietnam War, of trying to delay a sexual harassment lawsuit by suggesting that as Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces he had the same rights as a soldier on active duty.

Expressing astonishment, two Republican committee chairmen were collecting signatures from others in Congress for a sharply worded letter urging Mr Clinton to withdraw "this ignoble suggestion that you are somehow a person in military service".

But Mr Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett, said the criticism was a partisan effort to distort an argument in the President's petition to the US Supreme Court seeking to delay the contested suit until after he leaves office. The plaintiff, Paula Jones, alleges that while Mr Clinton was Governor of Arkansas she went to his hotel suite where he exposed himself and asked her to perform a sexual act.

One of several examples advanced by Mr Bennett to give the President temporary immunity cited the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940. That grants automatic delays in civil litigation brought against military personnel until their active duty is over.

The petition said: "President Clinton here thus seeks relief

similar to that which he may be entitled as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and which is routinely available to service members under his command."

In a statement issued by his Washington office, Mr Bennett said while the 1940 Act might extend to Presidents as Commander-in-Chief "we have not relied on it in this case".

The two Republican congressmen, Bob Stump, chairman of the Committee for Veterans' Affairs, and Robert Dornan, chairman of the Committee on Military Personnel, insisted Mr Clinton was not eligible for any relief under the Act. They said the Act granted delays only to members of the Armed Forces and the US Constitution en-

sured the Commander-in-Chief was always a civilian.

Clearly seeking further to embarrass Mr Clinton over the case, the chairmen wrote in their draft letter to him: "You are not a person in military service, nor have you ever been." Mr Stump said that by claiming possible protection under the 1940 Act, Mr Clinton was making a mockery of laws meant to help men and women serving their country in the military. It was a slap in the face to the millions who had served.

J. Thomas Burch, the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition chairman, said: "Bill Clinton was not prepared to carry the sword for his country, but has no hesitancy in using its shield if he can get away with it."

Fighting talk: The President joined battle with Bob Dole yesterday on what is fast becoming a central election issue - whether America should begin building a national missile defence system (Martin Fletcher writes).

Mr Clinton rejected his Republican challenger's charges that he was neglecting American security by delaying a decision until 2000, accusing the Republicans of wanting to spend huge sums now on a system that could be obsolete before any hostile Third World nation acquired intercontinental ballistic missiles.



Jones: accuses Clinton of sexual harassment



Michael Bryant, from his cell, answers a magistrate's questions during the video link-up. He did not enter a plea

Tasmania video court remands gunman

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

SECURITY fears prevented Michael Bryant, the Australian mass killer, making his first formal court appearance in person yesterday.

Instead Bryant, 28, the loner who killed 35 people, appeared by video link from his Tasmanian prison cell. Looking downcast and dishevelled, he was pictured on a

television monitor during the 90-second hearing at Hobart magistrates' court which received a bomb threat minutes before.

Dressed in a brown suede jacket and cream-striped shirt, he sat in a wheelchair in front of a camera installed in the hospital wing of Tasmania's top-security Risdon jail.

His thick fair hair combed to the right, his eyes darted sideways on several occasions.

The few members of the public who were allowed into the court described him as vague and confused.

Bryant, who was arrested after going berserk with a semi-automatic weapon at the Port Arthur historic settlement in southern Tasmania three weeks ago, faced one charge of murdering Kate Scott, of West Australia. He did not enter a plea and spoke only a few words. Asked by Michael Hill,

the magistrate, if his name was Martin Bryant, he replied: "Yes, yes I am."

Questioned again about whether he understood the procedure, he said in a softly spoken voice: "Yes, yes I do."

Bryant, who was remanded in custody until June 18, was wheeled back to his cell in the prison hospital, where he is kept apart from other inmates and has an adjoining cage for exercise purposes.

WORLD SUMMARY

Generals accused of sedition

Dhaka: Bangladesh's army chiefs, placed under house arrest at barracks here yesterday, faced charges of sedition as the civilian caretaker Government consolidated its grip on the military establishment (Ahmed Fazi writes).

After dismissing Lieutenant-General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim and crushing mutinous garrisons, the authorities told a Western diplomatic mission that June's election was on schedule.

Captain among ferry survivors

Mwanza, Tanzania: Hospitals have received only 91 survivors so far from the capsized Tanzanian ferry *M/V Bukoba*, including its captain, Rume Mwiru, 44, after Lake Victoria's worst disaster on Tuesday. Anguished crowds here still await news of relatives among the hundreds of passengers. (Reuters)

40 Russians die in Chechen battle

Moscow: At least 40 Russian soldiers were killed and scores injured in Chechnya after government forces attempted to storm the last rebel stronghold at Barnat, about 25 miles from the capital, Grozny (Richard Beeson writes). Russia has failed a dozen times to take the base this year.

India bus bomb kills at least 14

Delhi: In the second powerful blast in India in two days, a bomb killed at least 14 people and wounded 30 others on a bus near the town of Mahua, 90 miles from Jaipur in Rajasthan. On Tuesday 13 died and 38 were hurt in a market bomb here. (Reuters)

Drive-in havens

Bonn: Women-only parking places will become standard at all rest stops along the autobahn system, the German government decided, amid concern at increasing dangers for women travellers. (AP)

From rhymes to riches, President's favourite poet earns \$4.3 m in a year

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

POVERTY, racial injustice and womanly toil have paid off handsomely for Maya Angelou, the poet. Last year she earned \$4.3 million (\$2.8 million), making her arguably the best-paid versifier ever.

Ms Angelou, a former brothel keeper and tram conductor, is a champion of the oppressed and President Clinton's favourite poet. She composed a verse for his inauguration in 1993, and the Clinton years, in turn, have been good to her. According to *Forbes*, the financial magazine, last year

Ms Angelou pulled in some \$2 million from speaking engagements alone. The rest of her income came from book royalties, media deals, film appearances and scholarly stipends. She employed three administrative staffers, other temporary workers and an array of professional advisers.

David La Camera, her agent, compared her to "the chief executive officer of a major corporation". Her best-known work, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, is required reading at many American schools and slim volumes of Angelou poetry can often be seen sticking out of the handbags of

earnest young women. Her Clinton connection has ensured Ms Angelou a seat at some of the best tables in Washington DC, and she accompanied Vice-President Al Gore to the swearing-in of South Africa's President Mandela.

Her wealth sits uncomfortably alongside a line from her 1975 poem, *Alone*, in which she spoke of "millionaires needing medical treatment to cure 'hearts of stone'". But she said that when she was young, "I thought success meant having an attaché case and a pair of shoes and bags that matched".

Samuel Hays, founder of the International Poetry Forum and

the state poet of Pennsylvania, yesterday expressed astonishment at her earnings. "I cannot think of any poet who has ever made such money," he said. "Maya Angelou has a wonderful sense of presence but I do not think highly of her as a poet." He called her work "heightened rhetoric" and "plain prose overcoated with what Wordsworth would have called emotion... with every ethnic i dotted and t crossed, not imagined, but arranged".

The official poet laureate of the United States is Robert Hass, who is paid \$35,000 a year. Britain's poet laureate, Ted Hughes, receives an annual case of claret, worth £27.



Angelou: sense of presence

She stands before the abortion clinic confounded by the lack of choices. In the Welfare line, reduced to the pith of handouts. Ordained in the pulpit, shielded by the mysteries. In the operating room, husbanding life. In the choir loft, holding God in her throat. On lonely street corners, hawking her body. In the classroom, loving the children to understanding.

From *Our Grandmothers*, published in *I Shall Not Be Moved* (Banana, \$10.25)

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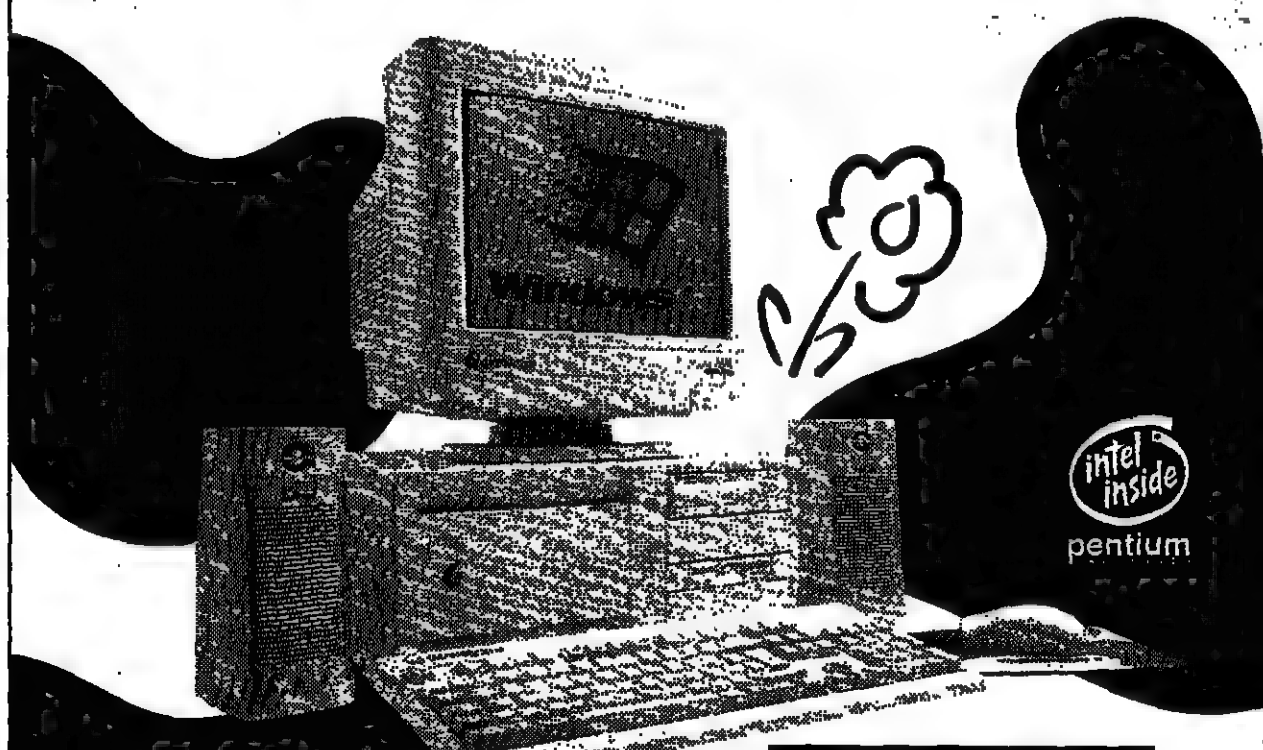
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Netanyahu claims lead as Labour gets sums wrong

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM



WITH less than a week until polling, Israel's election was thrown wide open yesterday with the publication of a Labour Party document alleging that opinion polls showing Shimon Peres, the Labour Prime Minister, five points ahead of Benjamin Netanyahu, his right-wing rival, were inaccurate.

According to the secret research document published on the front page of Israel's leading independent daily, *Haaretz*, the true picture is closer, with Mr Netanyahu and Mr Peres running neck and neck. The paper said that the findings had been passed to Mr Peres, who is attempting to overcome the jinx of having lost four elections as party leader.

The politically explosive report prepared by Haim Assa, a strategy analyst, and two statistics professors, was ordered by leading members of Labour's campaign team. It claimed that internal party polls and public opinion polls published in the Hebrew press

had overestimated Mr Peres's lead by failing to detect the tendencies of the large number of Israelis declaring themselves "undecided".

The leaking of the document coincided with claims by Mr Netanyahu, 46, that internal polls conducted by his opposition Likud Party showed him with a 1 per cent lead over Mr Peres, 72, the first time that the Likud leader has been ahead since early March in the aftermath of the four Islamic suicide bombs that killed more than 60 people.

The publication of the new claims has highlighted the

uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the May 29 poll, which Western governments believe could be decisive for Middle East peace.

Israeli experts put the difficulty of predicting opinion accurately, even at this late stage, down to a number of factors, including genuine confusion among bomb-weary voters about the best way forward and the reluctance of many rightwingers openly to voice their support of Mr Netanyahu after last November's right-wing assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

"The best reading we can make from all this is that despite all the campaigning, there is still everything to play for," a Tel Aviv-based diplomat said. "Everything could depend on how the two candidates perform in Sunday's TV debate and whether or not a mammoth new Islamic bomb is going to blow away Mr Peres's chances."

The threat of political violence has curtailed the normal exuberance of Israeli election-



Mr Netanyahu, in fighting mood, after a strategy meeting with his election staff yesterday. He says Mr Peres's lead is overestimated

ing and given the whole performance a stilted feel. Both the main parties have cancelled planned mass rallies scheduled for early next week on the advice of the Shin Bet internal security service. The central issue which will decide the outcome of a poll regarded as the most critical in Israel's

48-year history is whether Mr Peres is able to deliver to the Israeli people the "security" offered to them by Mr Netanyahu, or whether the Likud leader is able to offer them any realistic chance of continuing with the "peace" initiated by Labour. The agonising differences of opinion

in both the Israeli and Arab camps were again illustrated this week with *al-Awasq*, the leading Jordanian paper, taking diplomats and politicians by surprise by publishing a story under the main front-page headline: A Likud victory would redeem the peace process. Mustafa Abu Libda, its

editor, who has close connections with King Husain, accused Mr Peres of failing to implement financial guarantees he had given to both the Jordanians and Palestinians and of being weak-spined and hesitant. The daily added: "Arab psychology would prefer to work with someone like

Netanyahu and a party like Likud because they are viewed as having the capacity to make decisions."

Shlomo Avineri, a respected Israeli political scientist, took the opposite point. "Both parties are going after the centre voters, but nobody is fooling anybody," he wrote.

Poll kingmakers target Bibi's colourful past

Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, the right-wing challenger to replace Shimon Peres as Prime Minister after Israel's election on Wednesday, is campaigning as a family man, but is being dogged by his colourful past.

Although the Likud leader, a master of the CNN soundbite, is favoured by the majority of ultra-Orthodox Jews, his support in this vital constituency could be affected by large signs on walls in religious Jewish areas in Jerusalem and the crowded Tel Aviv suburb of Bnei Brak saying: "Do Not Commit Adultery."

The slogans are described by experts on the ultra-Orthodox community — which has often performed the role of kingmaker in Israeli elections — as a crude attempt to revive disapproval of the "hot video affair". This was the 1993 scandal Mr Netanyahu had hoped was forgotten. In which he confessed on television to cheating on his then new third wife, Sara, and claimed right-wing rivals were trying to blackmail him with a videotape, never seen publicly, of his extra-marital activities.

In Israel's often scurrilous media, Mr Netanyahu, 46, has attracted criticism for overplaying his image as a reformed family man. He has brought his wife and their two toddler sons, Yair and Avner, into the campaign at every opportunity, glossing over both Noa, 18 — his daughter from his first wife, Miki — and his second wife, Flair.

Calling for more, not less, investigation into his private life, the leading Hebrew broadsheet *Haaretz* argued it was necessary because "his familial image is of utmost political importance, and since he himself builds it up methodically".

So close is the contest that even Israel's top astrologist, Herzl Lifshitz, has admitted his inability to foresee the outcome. "Tell me I am a rotten astrologist, but — what can I tell you — I have not got a clue what is going to happen. I have never had this before," the stargazer said. "The thing I am most certain of is that terror will increase and that in January 1997, there will be war. What is strange is that I do not see either Peres or Bibi as Prime Minister. They do not have enough cosmic energy."

With all candidates banished by law from television and radio programmes in the three weeks before balloting, voters and politicians alike

CAMPAIGN NOTEBOOK

have been seeking relief from the diet of party political videos with a Friday night dose of the *Hartsufim*, the Hebrew version of *Spitting Image*, which has been one of Israel TV's biggest hits since its launch three months ago.

In one sketch, Mr Peres, whose vision of Middle Eastern harmony is seen by many Israelis as unrealistic, dons a virtual reality helmet. As bombs burst and flames rage in the background, the grotesque puppet version of the Prime Minister — himself a fan of the programme — obliviously enjoys placid scenes from a tropical island, and croons a Hebrew rendition of the Louis Armstrong hit *It's a Wonderful World*.

Mr Netanyahu, often criticised for having no policy of substance beyond Likud's catchall slogan "Peace with Security", was depicted recently with torturers trying to extract his programme from him.

The *Hartsufim* — the name combines the Hebrew words *hartsuf* or "cheeky" with *hartsuf* or "face" — has offended many Labour supporters by lampooning Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated six months ago by a right-wing Jew opposed to his peace policies but still a dominant figure in the current Labour campaign.

"Yitzhak, Yitzhak, come, you must appear in [Peres's] campaign broadcasts," an angel implored the former Prime Minister whose political relations with his successor were often strained. "Tell them that just once, I want to see them winning without me," sighed the Rabin puppet, tapping cigarette ash on to a nearby cloud.

Although Rabin's outraged daughter termed the sketch the "height of bad taste" and the mass-circulation daily *Yedioth Ahronot* reported the affair under the headline "Scandal", the *Hartsufim* appears set to go from strength to strength whoever becomes Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister.

Latest figures show almost a quarter of all households tune into the 20-minute programme and the producers say that some disgruntled politicians, not yet sent up, have offered cash to have puppets, however distorted, made up in their own likeness.

CHRISTOPHER WALKER



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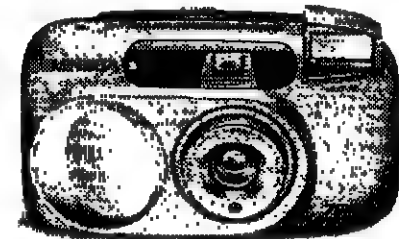
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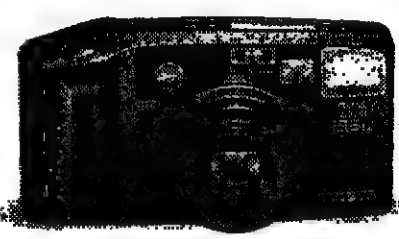
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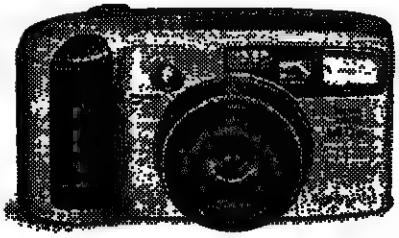
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I want to be in the pictures

Why does Virginia Bottomley have such a negative image? Joe Joseph asks

VIRGINIA Bottomley has a mystical talent for selecting the sort of photo opportunities that would make ordinary people like you and me look a little foolish but which, somehow, manage to make her look just completely barking.

Yesterday she turned up in our newspapers again, grinning madly at us from a Mad Hatter's Tea Party in Hyde Park. The idea was to launch a programme of free summer entertainment in London's Royal Parks. The National Heritage Secretary was sitting, sipping tea, between the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. It could have been a scene from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. It could have been a still from *Spitting Image*. You had to read the caption to be certain.

Why does she do this? Either she is game, or gullible. Or, as her critics allege, so greedy for publicity that she would attend the opening of an envelope. In case anyone is running low on stock pictures of her Ginny, she even arranges her own photo opportunity every summer on the Isle of Wight, posing with her entire extended family, the Garnetts.

As in most of her posed snaps, Ginny is always enjoying herself, licking a lolly, wearing a silly hat, throwing a member of the invited press into the water, grinning jolly at a brother wearing a T-shirt that reads "League Against Powerful Women".

A year ago, Bottomley — who was still Health Secretary at the time — and the then Heritage Secretary Stephen Dorrell offered themselves to Fleet Street's cameras riding a tandem in Trafalgar Square. Why? To promote the benefits of cycling, obviously. Luckily, the patron saint of newspaper caption writers arranged it so that Central Office failed to provide Bottomley with any handkerchiefs — a godsend with a big vote on NHS reforms on the horizon.

In February, Virginia was photographed — willingly — blowing into a lur, a sort of traditional Viking horn. It was to mark the launch of the Jorvik Festival on the River Ouse in York. Accompanied by a costumed Viking, she looked



The many faces of Virginia: colleagues call her bossy and ruthless, *Spitting Image* casts her as a bimbo, and those who call her 'attractive' make it sound like an insult

as if she might have been summoned to shift a blockage in some antique Viking plumbing. If you were being charitable you would say that her face, in full bloom, reminded you of Dizzy Gillespie's.

It's not that Bottomley is alone in making such photographic gaffes — remember John Gummer stuffing a hamburger down his daughter in 1990 to allay fears of mad cow disease infecting humans? Remember Neil and Glynis Kinnock's romantic stroll along Brighton beach in 1983, when Neil lost his footing as he struggled to pull Glynis from the unruly surf?

But Bottomley is beginning to show plenty of clear water between herself and her closest rival. Her

move to the Heritage Department from health has at least quadrupled her opportunities to be photographed by paparazzi, posing alongside actors, artists and celebrities as she flits from gallery opening to film premiere.

But all these photos may yield an even crueler harvest in years to come. Time can play tricks with archives: files go missing, pages of books flutter free, captions get detached from photos.

So imagine when historians in the year 2096 are looking back and researching the life and times of Virginia Bottomley MP, and they are trying to divine something of her character from a sheaf of old photos that are no longer attached

to any of their explanatory captions: what will they make of Virginia goofing around with Postman Pat and Dennis the Menace at Waterloo station? Of her giving blood surrounded by cameras? Of sweeping the beach at Bognor with a huge broom? They might wonder: did MPs have to take Saturday jobs?

Arriving at the Cannes Film Festival last week to fly the flag for Britain, Bottomley wore pale blue jacket, quilted blue handbag, pearls, court shoes, neckscarf — perfect for canasta with the Women's Guild but a bit understated for Cannes. She actually posed for fewer snaps than normal. The reason? Bottomley was convinced

she was being followed by a crazed stalker wearing glasses and with ginger hair. It turned out to be Denis Parris of BBC2's *Sunday Show*, who pounces on celebrities, asking inane questions.

If the aim of all her posing is to boost her image, it hasn't worked. Polls frequently judge her to be Britain's most insincere politician. In one poll that tested reactions to alternative Tory leaders, she proved less popular than Heseltine, Hurd, Clarke or Portillo, all of whom ranked below John Major.

Spitting Image casts her as a bimbo. Some call her bossy, ruthless. Others call her nannysht. Even those who call her 'attractive' make it sound like an insult.

She can be just as blunt. This is a woman who at the age of six, according to her father, "kicked the *au pair* out of the kitchen and began cooking the family breakfast herself" because the *au pair* wasn't doing it properly. The only surprise about this story is that the young Ginny didn't have the presence of mind to call a press conference to announce the dismissal.

Surprising to us, maybe, but apparently not to her. "The fact that some people think I'm pushy is very odd," she said last month in a BBC documentary, *Ladies Of The House*. "I'm quite a decent person one way and another." Of course she is. And what's more, she's got the pictures to prove it.

Kicking up a rumpus

Why Barcelona's revolting over a soccer sacking

ELEGANT Barcelona is in the grip of a revolt. Fans are screaming their displeasure in the streets and the newspapers after the city's football club sacked Johan Cruyff, its Dutch coach, on Saturday, and replaced him with England's Bobby Robson.

Mr Cruyff, the most successful coach in the club's history, is a Catalan icon, having coached the squad since 1988 and been a player for five years. Now he is threatening the club's president, Josep-Luis Nuñez, with a penalty shootout at an industrial tribunal.

Ever since Señor Nuñez secured Mr Cruyff's coaching services, the Dutchman has refused to discuss football with the club's board and banned the president from the players' dressing-room.

As long as Mr Cruyff ensured that the club's cupboards were teeming with trophies, Señor Nuñez was disposed to tolerate his coach's "absence of courtesy".

In his pomp, Mr Cruyff coached Barcelona to its first European Cup, and to four successive Spanish League titles between 1991 and 1994.

But Barcelona has since suffered a couple of very poor seasons: so Señor Nuñez has decided that since he had neither cups nor courtesy from the coach, it was time to say *adios* to Mr Cruyff.

BARCELONA'S passionate football fans, however, are outraged. On Sunday, when Señor Nuñez was spotted in the directors' box, halfway through a match, thousands of spectators waved white handkerchiefs furiously at him. In a traditional Spanish gesture of contempt.

The passion will take long to die down. "Cruyff is Nuñez no", screamed hundreds of fans this week. "Robson, ei inglis, had better be careful next season," one of them said. Is Mr Robson listening?

TUNKU
VARADARAJAN

Giles Whittell on a book that tells women to start behaving badly

THIS may be the grandest idea to come out of feminism since Mrs Pankhurst demanded the vote. Or it may be gobbledegook. Either way, a call to self-discovery is at the heart of a new book by Sheila Gillooly designed to comfort every Ms Twentysomething who has vainly pursued Mr Wrong, only to recoil from Mr

True love terrors

Right when he turns up on her doorstep, *Venus in Spurs*, published in America, argues that women often pursue long-term commitment in their romantic lives only because

they have been taught to. Deep down, it says, they are just as scared of it as men. Ms Gillooly's solution? Don't abandon all hope of connubial bliss, but concentrate on finding yourself first.

Subtitled "Why you Head for the Hills When Love Comes to Town", the book concentrates largely on why Ms Gillooly did precisely this during her twenties, when her life seemed a roller-coaster ride of misjudged seduction attempts and cancelled second dates. She was miserable. But it was only when "The One" (he is not named) professed unconditional love that she panicked, even piling on weight to put him off.

The story had a happy ending, though. So sincere was The One that his devotion to Gillooly survived her weight-gain, which she came to see as a symptom of "commitment phobia".

Her advice to all women similarly afflicted is to binge, have one-night stands and generally behave badly — something, she argues, that women have missed out on. In the process you will find yourself, and happiness. You may scoff, but it seems to have worked for her.

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TAKE YOUR PARTNERS



Dancing towards the Olympics — but is it sport?
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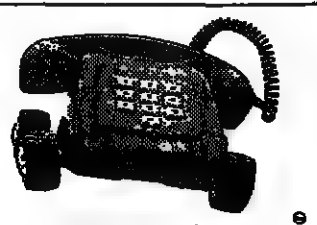
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Howard's production line justice

Lord Chief Justice Taylor condemns minimum sentences

Last October, Michael Howard announced to the Conservative Party conference his proposals for mandatory life sentences for those convicted for a second time of violent, sexual or drugs offences, and for stiff minimum sentences for those convicted for a third time of domestic burglary. The details have now been set out in a White Paper, and will be debated in the Lords today.

There is no doubt that the Home Secretary has responded to wide public concern, and that there is considerable support for his objectives. Every-one deplores the apparently relentless rise of crime in our society, and in particular of crimes committed again and again by those for whom it has become a way of life.

But there is no evidence that Mr Howard's proposals will achieve his aims. On the contrary, those who actually work in the system — lawyers, judges, probation and prison officers — are clear that they will not. There is no merit in adopting a macho attitude regardless of its efficacy. The experience of minimum and mandatory sentences in America has been that they clog up the courts and prisons while actually reducing the chances of convicting professional criminals by drastically reducing the number of guilty pleas.

The proponents of minimum sentences claim three benefits for their scheme: certainty, severity and progression (ie that repeat offences will attract ever-harder penalties). Certainty in sentencing can be achieved only by sacrificing justice. Individual crimes vary almost infinitely, as do individual criminals. The task of the judge is to tailor the sentence to the individual case to impose a punishment which not only produces the right mix of punishment and opportunity for rehabilitation, but also provides an apt and fitting mark of the wrong which has been done — both to the victim and to society.

The consequences of "production-line" justice — of sentencing by rote or by formula — were vividly demonstrated by the humiliating fiasco of the Unit Five system, which collapsed under the weight of its own contradictions three years ago, after less than a year in operation. The Government's latest proposals suggest that it has learnt none of the lessons of this policy failure.

On the contrary, it proposes that all those convicted on three separate occasions of domestic burglary, however modest the value of the theft and however long the lapse of time, should receive an automatic three-year "real time" prison sentence (equivalent to 4½ years under the present law). No account would be taken of whether the criminal was before the court for three offences or 30, how much time had passed between those offences, whether they involved sophisticated planning or drunken opportunism, or a host of other factors (not least the effect on the victims).

The advocates of greater severity start from the proposition that judges and magistrates are currently too lenient in sentencing burglars. I have no doubt that what mainly

deters criminals is the real likelihood of detection and arrest, not the theoretical possibility of incarceration for three rather than two years. Since at present the chances of detection of a domestic burglary are at best about three in 20, imposing minimum sentences of three years for those few offences that come to court is unlikely to reduce crime.

But, more crucially, is there any truth in the charge that the courts are too lenient with domestic burglars? The usual tariff after conviction at a contested Crown Court trial for burglary of a dwelling is three years if it is unoccupied, four if occupied. Considerably longer terms apply for aggravated burglaries, in which violence is used. In "real time" this range is equivalent to two to three years in prison, although it can be discounted for a guilty plea, in accordance with the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, and mitigated by factors such as previous good character.

If these sentence lengths are unduly lenient for a crime which involves no violence, what longer terms must we impose for offences against the person? One of the many anomalies these proposals would create is that the minimum sentence for a burglary would become as severe as — or even greater than — the current average sentence actually served for serious crimes of violence, even including rape. Either that, or the intention is to ratchet up all prison sentences in order to maintain a sensible relation between the penalty imposed for different crimes — so enormously increasing the already very large (and expensive) projections of the prison population.

The final charge is that there is insufficient progression in sentencing: that sentences do not increase as they should as criminals offend repeatedly. The White Paper figures purport to show that average sentences increase only from 16 months for a first offence to 19 months for a third offence. Yet some of these figures are from a period when judges were prevented by statute from taking account of any of a criminal's offences but the two most recent. So for the Government to criticise the judiciary for leniency is wholly unjustifiable.

But there is more progression than the bald figures show. If one takes out repeat offenders who had not received a prison sentence for their previous convictions, even average sentences in this sample increase by 2.5 months for a second conviction, and by 5.6 months for a third.

Quite apart from the manifest injustice of sentencing without regard to the circumstances of the case, the statistics relied upon are therefore insufficient and tainted. The effects of the proposals for minimum sentences would be vastly to increase the prison population, and to require a fundamental reconsideration of the comparative sentences imposed for these and other crimes upon first conviction.

The Government would do well to listen to the arguments in Parliament, and to consider whether its proposals are necessary or justified.



"BY THE RIGHT, QUICK MARCH! RIGHT, RIGHT, RIGHT RIGHT RIGHT..."

Monty Python politics

The Prime Minister is a weak man trying to look strong — what a humiliation for a once-great power

The Prime Minister's new policy of the "half-empty chair", as they are calling it in Brussels, is the wrong response to the wrong aspect of the wrong European issue. He has confused the big and permanent issue of Europe's constitutional future — which flows into and out of the Maastricht treaty, with some specific economic issues affecting particular interests. Beef and fish are the most important of these specifics. John Major has chosen to use his most dramatic weapon, non-cooperation in the European process, to buttress Britain's case on this particular beef issue, or on a narrow part of it. That could weaken his position on the constitutional issues, which are historically so much more important. His tactic could also fail to work.

There is even doubt about the Prime Minister's objective in threatening to use his extreme deterrent. In his article in yesterday's *Daily Express*, he refers to the European Commission's proposal to lift the ban on the three beef by-products, tallow, gelatin and semen. It was the blocking of this proposal which so angered the British Government that it decided to threaten the half-empty chair. Yet the Prime Minister admits: "There is a chance of progress on this narrow front when European ministers discuss it again early next month."

The by-products ban was the trigger for the new British threat, but the Prime Minister accepts that this ban might have been lifted in any case, as the commission had already proposed.

He goes on to say — and this is the ambiguous point — that: "Even then, we need to make progress towards lifting the beef ban altogether — our main objective." What is "progress"? It could be said, perhaps it will be said, that a lifting of the by-products ban does in itself constitute "progress" towards lifting the beef ban altogether. Yet the lifting of the beef ban itself would still be remote.

The continental European countries follow the progress of the scientific research into BSE as closely as Britain does. The research is also followed by the Americans, who have had a ban on British beef since 1989, which they show no signs of lifting. As I reported on Monday, scientists do not yet know whether BSE, in cattle can be transmitted to human beings or not. And still less are they sure of the precise means of transmission if it occurs. Experiments are

being conducted on mice which are likely to determine whether the ten or 12 "new" cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease are or are not BSE transmitted to man. Those experiments will probably give a decisive answer within a year.

Both in Britain and in the rest of Europe, the outcome of these experiments will create an entirely new situation. If it is proved that BSE, with its characteristic signature, is being transmitted from cow to man to mouse, then the beef ban is likely to remain in force until the British herd is effectively free of the disease.

William Rees-Mogg

If, on the other hand, the "new" human cases turn out to be merely a variant of sporadic CJD, that would leave no evidence that BSE can cross the species barrier to man. Then indeed the mantra that British beef is "safe in any normal definition of the word" would be true.

Europe is not therefore going to lift the main beef ban until it is known whether or not BSE is infectious to man. Nor would Britain now import European beef, if the situations were reversed. The Prime Minister's threat of the half-empty chair is therefore an empty one. The narrow ban on by-products will probably be lifted anyway, and his threat could make that less rather than more likely. The beef ban is not now going to be lifted until people know that they cannot catch CJD from eating beef. So long as there are 100 BSE cases a week, it is obvious that some pre-clinical BSE cows are still going to get into the human food supply. European consumers will not take the risk.

The Prime Minister is exposing himself to scepticism and even ridicule by deploying Britain's ultimate negotiating weapon in Europe, or at least our penultimate weapon, in order to put pressure on those three great issues of state: Tallow, Gelatin and Semen.

Some ministers have tried to explain how this strange policy will work. One of them, wisely remaining anonymous, told the *Financial Times* what terrible things the Government would do. Ministers will even go so far as to disregard the agenda of European discussions. "If we are there to talk about beef, if fishing is on the table, we will talk about beef."

This is a foreign policy scripted by Monty Python. In any case, British fishermen, who are just as angry as the beef farmers, will be anything but pleased to hear that British ministers, instead of criticising Spanish over-fishing in the Irish Sea, or some such subject of interest to them, will be arguing to the European Fisheries Committee that there are no BSE prions in tallow, or that gelatin is safe if it has been treated at a high enough temperature for a long enough time.

Some observers think that the Prime Minister's new policy is only secondarily concerned with Europe, or even with beef, and that it is primarily a response to the divisions in his own party. There the immediate reaction was favourable, but even 24 hours later it has cooled. Both among Euro-philosophes, who might be expected to be annoyed, and among Euro-sceptics, who might have liked it better, I have been hearing the comment that this is the gesture of a weak man trying to look strong. The cynical view, common in both groups, is that the Prime Minister expects to win a relaxation of the ban on the beef by-products, and perhaps a few words suggesting that the main beef ban won't last forever, and that he will then declare a victory in his own favour. Hardly anyone believes that he will continue the half-empty chair policy until the beef ban has actually been lifted.

In the meantime, the serious economic decline of Europe contin-

ues, with or without Britain. The clouds of negative energy, which are so symptomatic of the decay of political systems, now blanket the European Union including the British Isles. On Tuesday, the German Economics Ministry reported that the economy had declined, after price and seasonal adjustments, for two consecutive quarters. Technically, that puts Germany in recession.

The Germans have the strongest industrial base in Europe; it is, on some measurements, the third largest economy in the world, after the United States and Japan. On other measurements, China comes second only to the United States.

Yet Germany in the 1990s is a high-cost, high-tax economy with short working hours and high and rising unemployment. Chancellor Kohl has introduced a programme of expenditure cuts, which are meeting strong trade union resistance. Nurses, hospital orderlies, dustmen, postmen and civil servants have all joined protest strikes, which the *Handelsblatt*, Germany's financial daily, rashly called "the revolt of the dwarfs". Europe regards the German economy as the engine which will carry everyone forward; that engine has now stalled.

What is the Foreign Secretary expected to say when the European Union discusses high unemployment and the other competitive weaknesses of the European economy? Even when not in recession, the EU now grows at only a quarter the rate of the Pacific tiger economies. Malcolm Rifkind will have to talk about beef. "I say, Signor, did you know that we have only had about a quarter the number of cases of BSE in Scotland that they've had down in the West Country. Only 129 Aberdeen Angus have caught the disease so far. You're really almost safe eating Scottish beef, and I can assure you it's quite delicious." This will now be the diplomacy of what was once a great power.

There comes a time when nothing works for ministers. They've used up the confidence of the people, they have used up the trust of their allies; they have exhausted their own energies; they have lost faith in themselves. The *Daily Mail* — "Major goes to war at last" — and the *Daily Express* — "Major speaks for Britain" — think that this spasm of hysteria after years of incompetence shows that the Government has recovered the will to govern. It is not so. The half-empty chair is the symbol of a half-dead Government.

Reader, I do not believe it

Magnus Linklater

questions the

Brontë 'discovery'

I have somewhere a photograph of myself, grinning weakly, holding two volumes of the so-called *Hitler Diaries*. The picture was taken just as the sorry hoax was beginning to unravel, and this was a souvenir not to be treasured, but to be kept hidden away as an awful reminder of human fallibility and greed. From my involvement in that episode, back in 1983, I learnt, first, to be very wary of the phrase "99.9 per cent certain" — used to me by Lord Dacre as reassurance on the day before publication of the diaries in *The Sunday Times* — and secondly to distrust all experts, particularly handwriting experts, who are almost always wrong. Most of all I remember, with deep guilt, the way I and others on the paper "willed" the story to be true, just when we should have been most critical. The very fact that the outside world was so derisively sceptical led to a closing of our minds to contrary evidence.

There is, of course, no real comparison between that extraordinary saga and the "discovery" of an unknown novel by Charlotte Brontë, reported this weekend beneath banner headlines. The *Hitlerschrift*, if true, would have altered our view of history. The new Brontë — *Sarah Miles*, a story of four Yorkshire women going through hard times during the industrial revolution — would be merely a literary treat. But what a treat. Giles Gordon, the agent who is currently negotiating its sale to eager publishers, reports that it may come to be considered her finest work; it is, he says, an "unprecedented" find, "the publishing sensation of the autumn". Not for nothing is Mr Gordon considered an agent *sans pareil*.

And there is, so far as we know, no hoaxer. Just a forgotten Victorian novel and the will to believe that it is a Brontë. Naturally we want it to be true. What could be more thrilling than a novel to equal *Jane Eyre*? Already it has been described as "compulsively readable", full of memorable women and splendid passages of descriptive prose. It would fill the literary pages and inspire academic theses. Just think of the movie rights. But in an age when the suspension of disbelief is almost endemic, we have a duty to be a little more rigorous about these things, lest we develop a collective softening of the brain. Let us remember that there are no such things as UFOs, bending spoons, Yedis, Loch Ness Monsters, corn circles formed by space machines, astrological science or London double-deckers at the South Pole. And there is no such thing as an undiscovered work by Charlotte Brontë. There, I've said it.

What happens in these cases is that the "positive" evidence is seized on and the rest is airbrushed out. As I combed through the description of how the book was found and why it might indeed be a genuine Brontë, I felt the first prickles of uncertainty. It was not so much the hyperbole — "literary timebomb... an addition to the canon of English literature" — as the apparently convincing detail. The finder, Ian King, who owns the excellent Old Grindley's bookshop in Edinburgh, has fed sections of the text into his Apple Mac and has thrown up what he calls remarkable parallels with other Brontë works. Among them are the phrase "these porridges" which also appears in *Jane Eyre*, and the word "disagreeables", also used in the plural; the author addresses the reader directly, as in "Reader, I married him".

It's probably unfair to haul these examples out. I am sure Mr King has many others, more convincing. But I am beginning to think that computer comparisons may be, when it comes to literature, the modern equivalent of the handwriting expert; not only the *Hitler Diaries*, but the Mussolini Diaries and the faked Howard Hughes autobiography were all "authenticated" by graphologists. They were all wrong. I wonder whether the computer is any more reliable? I would like to ask Mr King, for instance, how many passages he discovered that were *nothing* like Charlotte Brontë. Even the critic Angus Calder, who contributed a cautious analysis in *Scotland on Sunday*, is dubious about the author's extensive use of "troubling" dialogue, her uncompromising feminism and rushed transitions of narrative. Do these not outweigh a smattering of "disagreeables"?

I also wonder why it was necessary for Mr King to conduct his research in secret, working night and day without consulting the Brontë experts, of whom there is no shortage? Why the rush, why the secrecy? Why is there no reference to the manuscript in any of the Brontë biographies, including Mrs Gaskell's? And can we really believe Mr King's trouperous explanation of its origins — stolen by a jealous friend from Charlotte's room after her death, hidden for 30 years, then published under the name of another author? In the case of the *Hitler Diaries*, the story of how they were concealed after the war was also unbelievable, though we chose to believe it.

I hope I'm wrong. If I am, I shall eat this column, newsprint and all, in Mr Gordon's elegant New Town dining-room. But I suspect it won't come to that.

The hat's off



Hogg: heading for trouble

abandoned the swashbuckling Fedora which he had thought would impart a winning image in Brussels. But as Central Office breathed a sigh of relief, the Hogglet was spotted in Whitehall behaving once more. Protection, you see, from the weather, which was yesterday as unpleasant as some of the opinions in Westminster of his shambolic negotiating skills.

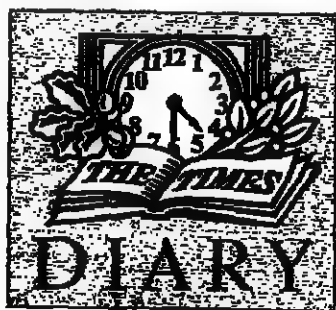


"I suppose we'll miss the Degas exhibition now"

THE PERFORMANCE of the embattled Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, during the BSE crisis has been a source of concern in Downing Street. Now his dress sense is under attack.

Sir Tim Bell, the public relations guru who is again advising the Government after years in the cold, is urging that Hogg abandon the ludicrous hat he has been sporting in Brussels. I understand that Bell's message about head-gear has been passed to Hogg via his wife Sarah, who at one time headed the Downing Street Policy Unit.

The press office at Central Office has endorsed the sentiment, and Hogg seemed this week to have taken the hint. On Tuesday, he



● In the footsteps of his famous grandfather, Gopal Gandhi is off to South Africa next month as the new Indian High Commissioner in Pretoria. Presumably he will enjoy his stay rather more than his forebear, who was jailed for his stand against racism.

Little treasure

MY WHOLEHEARTED congratulations to Elisabeth Wright, who after 33 years at the Japanese Embassy is to be rewarded for her sterling work with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays, at a ceremony at the Embassy in Piccadilly today.

Miss Wright has served 11 ambassadors as private secretary, visited Japan twice and hob-nobbed with the Japanese Imperial family

— all the while refusing to learn the language of her employers. "Not a word," she says cheerfully. "I made all the ambassadors practise their English on me."

Bottoms out

MPs are watching their backs more carefully than ever. A mysterious Labour Member has been prowling the corridors of Westminster with a Polaroid camera, snapping colleagues' bottoms.

His purpose is to collect candidates for the first Commons and Lords "Rears of the Year" awards, but he is remaining anonymous. We only know that he has a southern constituency. "He has already singled out Michael Portillo and I expect other nominations shortly," says organiser Anthony Edwards. The corridor-creeper would do well to steer clear of Tony Banks. "I shall warn my colleagues not to show their bottoms in the House," says Banks. "If anyone is caught taking a picture of my bottom, he will get a sound thrashing."

Turfed in

FANS of last night's European Cup finalists Ajax can now stay in touch with their beloved soccer



Trevor and Sharon: he's playing chukkas while she works

club from beyond the grave. A 40ft by 50ft patch of pitch from the Amsterdam side's former ground is being moved to a crematorium on the outskirts of the city. Supporters will be able to pay a fee, as yet undisclosed, to have their ashes scattered over the turf, and to have a small gravestone in the club's red and white erected on the grass.

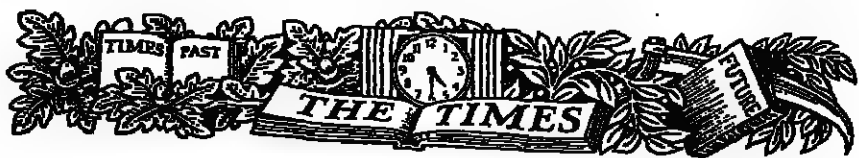
Another cup

THE actress Sharon Maughan hopes she has finally found a way to keep her over-active husband, Trevor Eve, out of mischief. The

couple were at a lunch party yesterday for the draw for the Veuve Clicquot Gold Cup, where she explained that she is eagerly encouraging her husband's own polo career as a playing member at Cowdray Park. He has tried everything else involving bats and balls.

"He's all but exhausted the sports list," said the doyenne of Gold Blend girls wearily. "We've had tennis and what-have-you — now it's polo. But I think this is it. He's hooked. And now he will be out of my hair so I can work on my film script."

P.H.S



BULLY FOR BEEF

The election may come sooner than we thought

Boldness has never been John Major's defining virtue. But on the few occasions on which he has exercised it, his daring has paid off. The new policy of non-cooperation in Europe can be counted alongside his 1995 leadership election as a high-risk, but potentially high-reward, strategy. At one stroke, the Prime Minister has changed the political outlook for both main parties.

Until very recently, there were few Tories who thought that the general election should be held before spring of next year. The November Budget's tax cuts needed time to feed through into pay packets. It was thought, and a greater sense of prosperity needed time to be reflected in the polls. To fight this autumn and lose would give rise to endless regret and speculation about what could have been achieved had the Prime Minister held on until the end of his term.

But the balance of risks and opportunities was already changing before this new stance on Europe. As tax revenues evaporated, to the Treasury's alarm, the scope for tax cuts in the autumn had almost vanished. Better, perhaps, to hold an election before November than to have a disappointing Budget that did nothing for the Tories' electoral fortunes.

Meanwhile, the death of just one Conservative MP would deprive Mr Major of his Commons majority. The prospect of limping through the winter, dependent upon the support of the Ulster Unionists, stirs memories of the doomed Callaghan Government, which might have won an election had it held one in autumn 1978 rather than spring 1979. The only Government this century that has won an election with a workable majority within six months of the end of its term of office was Mr Major's own administration in 1992.

The most powerful argument against going to the country this autumn was that, by then, the Tories might not have closed enough of the gap in the opinion polls. This is where the beef strategy, if it works, will come into play. Already, Mr Major has achieved the rare feat of uniting both the mass of his party and the traditionally Tory newspapers behind his move. This combination may well help to boost the Conservatives in

the polls; this in turn will stiffen the resolve of Tories and demoralise the Labour Party.

Will the position itself be popular with the voters whom Mr Major needs to attract? Beef is not the ideal issue on which to take on Europe. The spread of BSE is almost entirely the fault of inadequate government measures; and more people blame the Government than Europe for the mess. Consumer boycotts (as Shell discovered with the Brent Spar) are the hardest to crack. The partial ban will no doubt be lifted, as it would have been without the new stance, but the full ban may stubbornly remain.

Mr Major will, therefore, want to enlarge the battleground, to use beef merely as a symbol for the need to change the workings of the EU. This should appeal to two tranches of disaffected Tories: right-wingers who might otherwise have abstained or supported the Referendum Party, and the so-called "Basildon" voters who would not go near a Liberal Democrat candidate.

Tony Blair, meanwhile, will be left with the floaters of the centre. He will try to resist Tory attempts to make this a single-issue general election. He will doubtless warn the country that the Tories secretly want to withdraw altogether from the EU; and — shades of 1964 — he will portray this policy as backward-looking compared with the "modern" constructive position of Labour. The new aggressiveness has thrown Labour onto the defensive. Caught between the desire to neutralise the issue by backing the Government and exploiting the territory now vacated by Mr Major, Mr Blair and his colleagues do not know which way to go.

Mr Major can capitalise upon the Opposition's disarray only if he stands firm himself. On the last occasion that a Tory Prime Minister called an election on the question "Who governs Britain?", his resolve cracked too early. Edward Heath made concessions to the miners during the course of the campaign, and Harold Wilson narrowly won. But the Tories garnered more votes than Labour and managed to claw back their deficit in the polls. The lesson for today's Prime Minister is clear: hold your nerve.

IMRAN TO DECLARE

A statesman needs policies and a team as well as popularity

To remember Imran Khan captaining his cricket team is to understand his appeal to the populace of Pakistan. But now Mr Khan is moving from fast bowling to fast talking, pitching himself onto the political platform under the banner of anti-corruption.

Last month Mr Khan launched Tehreek-i-Insaf, his Justice Movement. This week he is in Britain to rally support among an emigrant population who, though they do not hold a vote in Pakistan, maintain strong links with relatives back home. He is inspecting the pitch before the possible transformation of his movement into a political party in a few months' time.

The reason he has drawn the crowds says as much about the sterile state of Pakistani politics as it does about Mr Khan's status as national hero. Pakistan is a state pushing towards a liberal Islamic democracy. The secular government holds sway by warding off the most threatening extremes of Islam, while maintaining a public front of respect for Islamic doctrines. The established political parties — the Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan Muslim League of Nawaz Sharif — are based on shifting coalitions of self-interested individuals, opportunistic politicians whose motivating force seems to be private gain and the perpetuation of power. For a nation struggling to free itself from past military rule and establish true democracy, support for Mr Khan is a *cri de coeur* for change.

The danger for Mr Khan, however, will be

an assumption that his instant popularity amounts to an endorsement of him as a politician and a thinker. While he pinpoints the problems of Pakistan — corruption, violence, feudalism, poverty, illiteracy — his high-minded standpoint is politically simplistic, even naive. There is as yet little indication that he has formulated any coherent strategies for solutions.

Mr Khan risks being used by Islamic groups to further their political agenda. After egregious pro-Islamist remarks he seems to have moderated his views, recognising that such groups as the Jamaat-i-Islami could prove themselves an electoral liability. On the other hand, if he veers towards a less extremist stance, he will find himself courting the same voters as Ms Bhutto. Splitting her electorate may open the way into government for the Muslim League, which cannot be Mr Khan's intention.

The real problems of Pakistan lie far beyond the bickering of factional politics. A nation staggering under the pressures of population expansion and further debilitated by constant feuds on its northern borders needs leaders who are prepared to take serious, if unpopular, decisions. It needs statesmen who can formulate consistent policies away from the quagmire of political infighting. Mr Khan's real test will come when he matches himself against the difficulties of drawing up a detailed manifesto and gathering together a leadership team to confront his opponents in a general election.

GAZZA AND THE GREAT WALL

Over the Moon for the wonder of the world

Paul Gascoigne turned down his chance to visit the Great Wall of China yesterday. He played cards in his hotel instead, while the rest of England's football team stepped up final training on the world's most distinctive monument. When told that of all man's work on Earth, it alone could be seen from the Moon, Gascoigne replied that in that case he would wait until he got to the Moon.

Everybody has his own way of relaxing before a big match. Gascoigne, who weeps easily in public, may have mistrusted the emotion inspired by the largest construction on the planet, built at the cost of a million lives and snaking majestically through a sea of rugged mountains. Or perhaps the height of the wall, ten times that of a crossbar, might have reminded him of the distance he has been shooting over the top recently. He has been disappointed the photographers who had been looking for an opportunity to contrast ancient with modern celebrity.

So he missed what is the most ancient wonder of the tourist trade after the pyramids. For 30 centuries people have been coming to the wall. Mongols, Manchus and Japanese crossed it in war, Kublai Khan in peace. Now tourists visit it in packages. Richard Nixon was so overwhelmed that he could only comment, "It's a great wall".

Marco Polo forgot to mention the wall in his memoirs, but then he also forgot to mention tea and the ideographic script of the Chinese. So when on his death bed he said Chinese. So when on his death bed he said that he had barely told half of what he saw in

China, he may have had the wall in mind. Everybody thinks less of himself for never having visited the Great Wall. James Boswell said he really believed he would go and see the wall of China, if he did not have children whom he had a duty to look after. In magisterial mode Dr Johnson replied: "Sir, by doing so, you would do what would be of importance in raising your children to eminence. There would be a lustre reflected on them from your spirit and curiosity. They would be at all times regarded as the children of a man who had gone to view the wall of China. I am serious, Sir."

Let us hope that Gascoigne recovers his curiosity and spirit in midfield for England's first match against China today. With a quarter of mankind wanting to watch it in China, and millions more in England, the television audience should set a record for an England match. The Chinese are unknown quantities in world football. But a local expert says that on the field their team exemplifies the teachings of Confucius: namely, obedience, respect, unselfishness, and the need to work together for the common good.

And, of course, they have a famous defensive wall. Not all these qualities have always been on show in Terry Venables' squad. But it would be a misfortune to have travelled to the end of the Silk Road, and then to fail to score. To miss the Great Wall as well would be carelessness worthy of Marco Polo.

UK challenge on the beef ban

From Mr David Sunderland

Sir, Seemingly the sole body that would appear to be interested in the beef debate only on public health grounds is the Commission in Brussels (reports and leading article, May 22).

Nothing has convinced me more of the supranational benefits of EU membership than the present impasse. If the real issue is one of confidence, how can anybody have faith in our ability to enforce controls when in recent weeks we and our European friends have read about thousands of HIV blood tests having to be redone, forensic science tests being unreliable and beef with proscribed parts reaching the butchers' shops even now.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SUNDERLAND,
Four Old Barns,
Haberley, Shrewsbury, Shropshire,
May 22.

From Mr Peter Goodford

Sir, My understanding is that BSE was first detected in this country some years ago, that the British Government acted very responsibly and set up a major research effort to study it, and that after an expenditure of some millions of pounds a few cases of human disease have been found which may be related to BSE in cattle.

So far as I am aware the rest of Europe has not made a similar research effort, and it is therefore wrong for them to conclude that BSE is an exclusively British problem. In fact they do not know the position in their own countries.

The Community should either ban all beef products until each country has carried out appropriate research or accept that the low incidence of human symptoms is not cause for serious concern. Britain should not be penalised for being the first to study the problem.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. GOODFORD,
The Old Vicarage,
Ascot near Wychwood,
Oxfordshire.

From Mr Jeffrey Green

Sir, I have no doubt that the number of Britons killed each year by German cars far exceeds the number of Germans killed annually by British cows. Surely we should be seeking the destruction of German cars and not British cows?

Yours faithfully,
JEFFREY GREEN,
88 Gleadon Road, SW16,
May 22.

From Dr Douglas Justins

Sir, If Britain does leave the EU she should re-establish strong, preferential trade links with all her former colonies, many of which were spurned when Britain first wooed Europe. There would be mutual financial advantages, so Commonwealth might be a good name for the group.

Yours etc,
DOUGLAS JUSTINS,
59 Vineyard Hill Road, SW19,
May 22.

From Mr Myles Glover

Sir, Does not the Prime Minister's new stance over British exports of beef to Europe conflict with his stance in opposing negotiation under duress with Sinn Féin/IRA over the future of Northern Ireland?

Yours truly,
MYLES GLOVER,
Buckhall Farm,
Bethersden, Ashford, Kent,
May 22.

From Mrs Maureen Harkavy

Sir, Has "bully-beef" now taken on a new meaning?

Yours faithfully,
MAUREEN HARKAVY,
The Poplars, Grange Lane,
Alvechurch, Worcestershire,
May 22.

Blow to food makers

From the Editor of Frozen and Chilled Foods

Sir, Farmers and slaughterhouse owners are not the only ones suffering from the BSE crisis (reports, May 22).

British food manufacturers have been scoring remarkable export successes prior to this latest furore. In the six months to June 1995 exports of food and drink increased by 13 per cent. £550 million up on 1994, and a sizeable percentage of those exports represents manufactured products containing beef: pies, pastries, ready meals, sausages, burgers and more.

Britain leads Europe in the manufacture of convenience foods. Our food products are excellent, but manufacturers are naturally dependent on assurances of quality from the suppliers of their raw material. The question mark now hanging over British beef has dealt the British food industry a severe blow at precisely the time when it is beginning to be recognised as a serious force by its continental competition.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL MURRAY,
Editor,
Frozen and Chilled Foods,
Argus Business Publications,
Queensway House,
2 Queensway, Redhill, Surrey,
May 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Cogent reasons for opposing the enlargement of Nato

From Field Marshal Lord Carver

Sir, I support wholeheartedly the views expressed by Sir John Killick in his letter of May 16 about the enlargement of Nato, and would add a further reason for opposing it. Unless Nato changes fundamentally, new members would be encouraged to model their armed forces on the American, which are basically designed for high-intensity warfare.

Such forces would inevitably be seen as a potential threat to their neighbours, particularly if they were backed by American nuclear support. That is the very opposite of what the security of central and eastern Europe needs. Countries in that area should be encouraged, as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has been trying to do, to develop agreements and confidence-building measures with their neighbours.

The future of the North Atlantic Alliance lies not in expanding its military organisation, Nato, on its existing pattern, but in a return to the original concept, at least as then seen by the US, of an alliance in which the US and Canada have general support (with emphasis at that time on nuclear weapons) to a Western European defence organisation.

The alliance needs to address itself to a far more radical reorganisation than it contemplates at present, a balanced relationship between the US and Canada on the one hand and an enlarged European Union on the other. The latter should establish a more or less integrated core defence organisation, which must at least include Britain, France and Germany, to cover arms procurement, common training and operating procedures and the capability to command in operations their own forces and those of any members of the Union/Alliance who may wish to take part.

Those who do not join permanently the integrated core would exercise national command of their forces unless participating in such an operation. If

the US is taking part it should be accepted that it will exercise overall command, as it has always done in the past and would in reality have done in any Nato operation. The forum for discussion between the Alliance (and its members) and other countries of Europe should be the OSCE, which should receive greater support and encouragement than it does now.

A European security organisation of this nature should arouse no fears in the minds of the Russians, who might then be more inclined to make progress with the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start).

Yours truly,
CARVER,
House of Lords,
May 16.

From Professor Sir Michael Howard

Sir, Like Sir John Killick, I have deep reservations about the extension of Nato to include the Visegrad Four. The fact that Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia want to join is no more a sufficient reason for admitting them than the wish of Russia that they should not would be a sufficient reason for keeping them out.

As Sir John argues, their admission would do nothing to enhance the security of Nato's existing members, but would, by further complicating its decision-making process, do much to degrade it. Neither would membership enhance the security of the Visegrad Four. Their problems are social and economic rather than military and would be better addressed through membership of the European Union than of a military alliance to meet a threat that does not yet exist.

Does not yet exist. But if Nato were to be extended eastward we would see the beginning of a familiar pattern of escalation. Russia, seeing herself threatened by her traditional enemies, would once again set about establishing her dominance over Ukraine, Belarus, and probably the Baltic states as well.

Nato would have to respond by

improving its military ties with the Visegrad states and perhaps offering guarantees in the Baltic, which the Russians could only see as further threats to their own security. Within a few years we would be back to a military confrontation in which the security of the Visegrad states would really be threatened, and the whole merry-go-round would begin again.

Our object surely is to create a security system embracing Russia as well as the nations of western and central Europe, and the security of the latter cannot be purchased by neglecting the fears of the former. The luminaries who attended the Prague conference (reports, May 11, 13) obviously meant well, but they were dangerously short-sighted. One does not avoid the mistakes of the past by repeating them.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOWARD,
The Old Farm,
Eastbury, Hungerford, Berkshire,
May 19.

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton

Sir, I hope that the wise words of Sir John Killick will give those responsible in Whitehall and Westminster reason to review what seem to be present policies about Nato "enlargement", which can lead only to disaster.

Who in the world, I wonder, really wants to get into the position that when a border punch-up occurs in eastern Hungary, or Poland, or Austria, Saeur (Supreme Allied Commander Europe) has to hurry to the rescue? And if he were crazy enough to do so, may we expect Herr Kohl to order the Bundeswehr to leap into the breach, as they so conspicuously didn't in Yugoslavia?

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
HILL-NORTON
(Chairman, Nato Military Committee, 1974-77),
House of Lords.

Alpha courses and Toronto blessing as aids to faith

From Mr Richard Carter

Sir, Mrs Helen Walker (letter, May 15) states that on her weekend Alpha course "a few fellow members were visited by the Holy Spirit". It is my earnest hope (and in faith I am prepared to believe it) that everyone on that day may have received His visitation. Some of the teaching of the Alpha course material may too easily give the false impression that the only definitive evidence of the Holy Spirit's visitation in a person is the manifestation of supernatural signs, particularly the gift of tongues.

Some Christians today, in common with some of our Lord's hearers during His ministry, are so concerned with instant evidence that they neglect to wait to see the fruit of the Spirit, which in New Testament teaching is the only sure sign that a person is truly born again by the Spirit's visitation.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. F. CARTER,
32 The Poles,
Upchurch, Sittingbourne, Kent,
May 15.

From the Reverend Jonathan Kerry

Sir, Your report (May 18) on the Methodist Church's response to the Toronto blessing, and in particular its headline, "Methodists fear Toronto blessing may be a curse", do less than

justice to the balance of views contained in our working party's report. The word "curse" does not appear in our report; indeed, although we do express cautions and recognise that there have been abuses and some cases of distress, on balance the view is much more favourable.

The clear majority of our almost 300 respondents who have had direct experience of this phenomenon speak in positive terms. Undoubtedly many people have been led to a greater awareness of God. Although some of the manifestations (falling to the ground, laughing and weeping, animal-like noises) may strike an observer as bizarre, they have often led on to lives of deeper Christian love in action.

The Toronto blessing is not for everyone, and is but one part of the diversity of Christian spirituality and the outward forms thereof. However, we welcome the experiences and insights which its recipients bring to the Church, whilst adhering to the principles of considered biblical reflection and rejecting any form of spiritual "one-upmanship", from whatever direction.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN KERRY (Convener,
Methodist Church Working Party
on the Toronto Blessing),
13 Sale Hill,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
May 18.

Rorke's Drift VCs

From Dr Michael Allwood

Sir, Your report of May 14 that a VC won in the legendary defence of Rorke's Drift is likely to break the world record when it goes on sale next month perpetuates a myth.

Robert Jones — a courageous boy from Raglan, in Monmouthshire — did not join the South Wales Borderers at the age of 18 as stated. The regiment which he joined, and which won seven of the 11 VCs at Rorke's Drift, was an English county regiment, the 24th Regiment of Foot (2nd Warwickshire Regiment).

It had been affiliated to the county of Warwickshire since 1782, but in 1881, two years after Rorke's Drift, redistribution of regiments led to its becoming the South Wales Borderers.

It is right that Gwent should take pride in the gallantry of the South Wales Borderers. It is sad that in Warwickshire there is now virtually no monument to what was for 99 years one of its two county regiments.

Five of the seven men from the 24th Regiment of Foot who were awarded the VC at Rorke's Drift were Englishmen. Writing in the *Strand Magazine* of March 1891 Jones himself wrote: "my thought was only to fight as an English soldier ought to fight for his most gracious Sovereign, Queen Victoria, and for the benefit of old England."

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ALLWOOD,
Ridge Barn,
Upton Fields,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire,
May 14.

Rail privatisation

From Mr Christopher Daws

Sir, What advice should be given to a Martian with around £2 billion to spend on a railway? He could buy Railtrack — 10,000 miles of track and buildings covering the kingdom — admittedly secondhand and a bit tatty. Or he could buy Crossrail — six miles of brand new track in a tunnel between the City and Paddington.

What sort of economic system is it which puts the same price on these two utterly different propositions? I fear my Martian will look for a more rational planet for his investment.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DAWS,
Sheepscombe House,
Jacks Green, Sheepscombe,
Stroud, Gloucestershire,
May 21.

Salt in the wounds?

From Mr Mark Cripps

Sir, All this talk from the water companies about "repairing leakages" and "making good the distribution of infrastructure" avoids the obvious solution.

We are an island nation. In addition to all of the necessary repair work, why don't the water utilities do the decent thing and invest in a network of desalination plants?

These could be powered by the excess heat generated by power stations (most are on the coast); they would create a highly marketable by-product (sea salt); and not even Britain has a seawater drought.

Yours faithfully,
MARK CRIPPS,
56 Riverview Grove,
Chiswick, W4,
May 22.

Dear Database...

From Mr Gerald Owen, QC

Sir, Judge Main (letter, May 15) laments the use of the computer database for address lists. He was lucky to retain his title.

I have received letters addressed to Mr Q. C. Owen and, recently, Mr Owen Kewsey.

Yours etc,
GERALD OWEN,
11 Wellington House,
Eton Road, NW3,
May 22.

From Mr David Tang

Sir, In Chinese, our "alphabetical" order is determined by the number of strokes of the character. Fortunately, because of the communist simplification of many of the characters, my surname (same as Deng Xiao-Ping) has had its strokes reduced from 14 to four.

Theoretically, I now move in higher circles, although in practice my compatriots in China only observe the importance of official rank rather than the number of strokes; and I still languish towards the bottom.

In any event, the Chinese newspapers are not sufficiently bourgeois to offer their readers the opportunity to announce their marriages and engagements. That was why, when I became engaged in Tibet recently, I had to resort to a London newspaper rather than the *Lhasa Daily*.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID TANG (Chairman),
D. W. C. Tang Development Ltd,
1112 Jardine House,
Central, Hong Kong.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 42

OBITUARIES

JOHNNY 'GUITAR' WATSON

John Watson, blues singer and guitarist, died in Yokohama, Japan on May 17, aged 61. He was born on February 3, 1935.

AS A performer, Johnny "Guitar" Watson was certainly a survivor. He played rhythm and blues in the Fifties, soul in the Sixties and re-invented himself as a funk and disco star in the late Seventies and early Eighties. Indeed, his death came as six of his albums from that period, including *A Real Mother For Ya* which famously showed Watson being pushed across Hyde Park in a "Cadillac" baby carriage by his own mother, had just been re-issued to fresh critical and public acclaim.

Born in Houston, Texas, John Watson grew up watching artists like Lightnin' Hopkins, T-Bone Walker and his favourite, the ebullient performer, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown. His father encouraged him to play the piano while he was given his first guitar, by his grandfather, who was a preacher. "He was playing spiritual songs on the guitar when I got it. My grandmother told me not to play any blues on it, and that's the first thing I taught myself to play," he said.

When his parents split up, Watson moved with his father to Los Angeles where he began to enter talent contests and was spotted by saxophone player Chuck Higgins who was looking for a pianist for his band the Mellotones. "Watson had just arrived on the West Coast and was only 13 when he joined my band," Higgins later recalled. "I had strict instructions from his father to look after him, not to let him drink, smoke or go with girls."

But it did not take long for his precocious talent to be noticed. He played keyboards on Higgins' big 1952 instrumental hit *Pacheco Hop* — an anthem in praise of a Chicago gang that held sway in southern California — and sang on the flipside *Motorhead Baby*.

After a year with Higgins, Watson switched to the guitar and formed his own band. It was while playing the bars and clubs of Los Angeles that he developed a spectacular and flamboyant stage presence. "I was doing things



like Hendrix 15 years before — playing guitar with my teeth, hanging from the rafters," Watson said. He would work with fellow guitarist Guitar Slim. "We used to work together in the clubs with 30-ft guitar leads. We'd sit on each other's shoulders and walk out into the audience."

His first big break came when he was signed by Federal Records in 1953

as "Young" John Watson and cut the futuristic instrumental *Space Guitar*. He switched labels in 1955 to Modern — where he first became Johnny "Guitar" Watson — and had an immediate hit with a cover of Earl King's New Orleans hit *Those Lonely Nights*, although Watson had to do 16 takes of the tune before the label boss Joe Bihari was satisfied. But perhaps

his greatest number from this period was the slow and moving *Three Hours Past Midnight* where, with a vocal that sounds uncannily like a young Mick Jagger, and some superb guitar playing, he showed what a great blues player he could be.

Watson then kept up an active live performance schedule while label hopping from Keen, Class, Arvee and Escort and cutting tracks like "Gangster of Love" which would provide Steve Miller with a huge hit years afterwards.

In 1964 he teamed up with the R&B star Johnny Otis who took him back to the King Records subsidiary, Federal Records, where he scaled the charts once again with *Cuttin' In*. In the mid-Sixties he toured the United Kingdom with former rock and roller Larry Williams and recorded with him for the Okeh label for which they cut a soulful vocal version of the Cannonball Adderley jazz number *Mercy, Mercy*, although it was the fast and frantic flipside *A Quilter Never Wins* that proved a winner in Britain's northern soul clubs.

The 1970s saw him adopt a more relaxed style with hits like *I Don't Want To Be A Lone Ranger* before he signed a deal with English label DJM and enjoyed a hugely successful run of funk albums including *Ain't That A Bitch* and *What The Hell Is This?* These showed that he had lost none of his vocal or instrumental abilities even if they were married to a disco beat.

In 1981 he joined A&M but failed to recapture the sound or the success of his DJM albums. Later came the disappointing *Strike On Computers* and his most recent album *Bow Wow* in 1993.

A London concert at the Town and Country Club in 1987 disappointed many since he concentrated on his hits of the 1970s and 1980s rather than his earlier blues material. But, as he told one journalist afterwards, "you got to be where it's at these days, man".

Watson always made sure he was where it's at. His influence can be heard on artists ranging from Jimi Hendrix to Frank Zappa. There are few left able to match his experience or his talent.

URSULA CHURCHILL-DAWES

Ursula Churchill-Dawes, kindergarten teacher and cryptographer, died on April 26 aged 86. She was born on August 17, 1909.

FOR much of her long life, Ursula Churchill-Dawes was the wife of the England cricketer and *Sunday Times* cricket correspondent, Ian Peebles. But she was married three times in all, and had an adventurous life in her own right before the war as teacher in the Far East. An admiring expatriate described her, when she was young, as the most beautiful woman in Hong Kong.

Her independent nature grew from necessity as a child. She was orphaned at the age of ten, her young mother dying from tuberculosis, and her father, Lieutenant-Colonel George Tulloh, being shot as he led his men out of the trenches at Ypres. Ursula Nora Anstis Tulloh was brought up by an uncle in Scotland, together with her brother Tony. (His son, Bruce Tulloh, was the famous hare-foot long-distance runner.)

Ursula had no intention of following the traditional route mapped out for girls of her background into immediate matrimony and motherhood. Instead she trained as a kindergarten teacher before sailing for the Far East. She worked in schools in Hong Kong and Singapore during the 1930s, and travelled all over India, China, Burma and Ceylon. She pony-treked in the Himalayas and flew down the coast of China in a sea plane. Wherever she visited, she would explore the countryside by walking for miles.

Her striking appearance combined with her spirited manner brought her many admirers. But her first marriage to an academic, Charles Boxer, was not a success and ended in divorce within the space of a year.

Many of her friends spent the war years as prisoners of the Japanese. Ursula escaped this fate, and began the long journey back to Britain with the aim of repatriation. She got as far as Ceylon before realising that she really had



Ursula with her second husband, Ian Peebles

no desire to return to grey English skies, notwithstanding all the dangers. She bid farewell to a bus load of homeward-bound expatriates, and determined to look for work where she was, finding employment in Intelligence as a cryptographer. Although she maintained this was at a low level, she must have been more valued than she liked to reveal. Duff Cooper, who went out to Singapore early in the war to take a look at the readiness of the British in the Far East, wrote to her to thank her, while she was working for a spell in Java.

Ursula returned to London after the war and at a dinner party at Claridge's was introduced to I. A. R. Peebles, the former England cricketer and captain of Middlesex. They were married in 1947 and went to live first in Bedford Gardens, Kensington, and then in Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, where they brought up two children.

Her husband's career in first-class cricket ended in 1946, but Peebles subsequently carved out a career for himself as a journalist, reporting for *The Sunday Times* during the 1950s and 1960s. Cricket brought new friends into Ur-

sula's life, even though she did not necessarily take the closest interest in the game itself. Her husband complained that, whenever he looked up from the pitch to smile at her, all he could ever see was the back of her head, as she chattered to other wives. Mollie Wyatt, the wife of Bob Wyatt, was a great friend of hers, and she also entertained Jim Swanton, Brian Johnston, Richie Benaud and Jack Fingleton.

Her husband's death in 1980 devastated Ursula. She found comfort first in the distraction of grandchildren, later in voluntary work and in new relationships. She married Montague Churchill-Dawes, a retired prep school headmaster in 1984. After he died in 1991, her final companion was Stanley Broughton, the former chief executive of Electrolux.

Her last home was in Berkhamstead in Hertfordshire, close to the golf course at Ashridge. She remained in excellent health and when asked her age would routinely deduct ten or twenty years from the true figure. It was a tribute to her youthful manner that many people believed her. She leaves her son and daughter from her marriage to Ian Peebles.

JAMES ASHLEY

James Ashley, first executive director and chief engineer of Atomic Power Construction, died on April 27 aged 79. He was born on February 1, 1917.

JAMES ASHLEY was a leader in the development of nuclear power, both civil and military, in this country. Working first with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and then taking an influential role on the private side of the nuclear industry, he could claim to have been one of the original founding fathers behind the release of an entirely new form of energy in Britain.

Born in South Wales, James Wilfred Ashley was the son of a Welsh heavy engineer. He attended the Newport Boys' High School and from there went to London University, where he studied for a BSc Eng.

His first job was with Electroflo Motors, a firm specialising in industrial instruments and automatic control systems. This technical background led to his being classified as being in a "reserved occupation" under the National Service Acts and his wartime years were spent working (at least indirectly) for the Government.

In the period after the Second World War James Ashley — along with his brother Edward — served with the UK Atomic Energy Authority. He was involved in the design and project management of the Windscale reactors, the Capenhurst gaseous diffusion plant and the other facilities related to the UK nuclear weapons programme. Further developments with which he was associated included the Calder Hall reactor — the first nuclear electric generating station, opened by the Queen in 1956 — and Dounreay, an experimental fast breeder reactor located in the North of Scotland.

Ashley then joined Richardson Westgarth and Company as director of nuclear work, and in 1957 was the main force behind the creation of Atomic Power Construction, formed to build atomic power stations.

Serving as sole executive director, Ashley was responsible for the recruitment and training of staff; the performance of all technical work including physics, metallurgy, engineering, research and development; and the commercial activities of the company. His efforts were rewarded when Atomic Power Construction received the con-



From left: Sir Christopher Hinton, the Queen, Prince Philip and James Ashley at the opening of Trawsfynydd nuclear power station in 1963.

tract for the Trawsfynydd nuclear power station in Wales. Ashley took that whole development under his personal wing — acting as a

technical director, chief engineer and project manager. He held a wide range of technical patents, including patents for the use of graphite

as a moderator of nuclear reactors. He spearheaded the development of the high temperature gas-cooled reactor, notably the Dragon reactor in England. He also acted as a consultant in the United States with the general atomic division of General Dynamics, working on the Peach Bottom nuclear generating station and later the Fort St Vrain high temperature graphite moderated generating station. He also held a consultancy with Gulf Oil. These consultancies took Ashley to projects in Japan, Korea, Spain and Switzerland.

In a step away from the nuclear industry, Ashley advised the Hedjaz Railway Company on the problems of rebuilding the Hedjaz Railway in the Middle East. This project involved three Arab governments, five international banks, two consulting engineers and two UK contracting companies.

In 1939 Ashley married Jean Thompson of Cardiff. Living principally in Surrey, they had two sons but this marriage was dissolved in 1971.

In 1973 Ashley married Shirley Jefferies and moved to live in Wolverhampton. By now semi-retired, he continued his consultancy work focusing, as always, upon his strengths — design, research and development, technical management and operation. Although "retired", his schedule became, if anything, more demanding.

He managed to balance his personal interests with his "commercial" engagements. He loved hiking in Wales and Cumbria, classical music and gardening. He was an avid rugby fan and in his youth had played for the Welsh Schoolboys.

He had a lifelong love of the visual arts. He created hammered copper pieces as well as jewellery and was a prolific amateur poet.

His second wife died in 1995 and he is survived by his two sons and a stepson.

ROBERT HALL

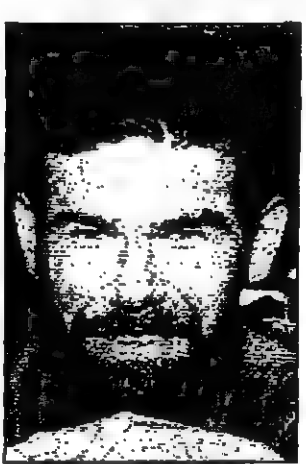
Robert Hall, mountaineer, died in a blizzard on Mount Everest on May 12 aged 35. He was born in Christchurch, New Zealand, on January 14, 1961.

EVEN by the granite standards of New Zealand's mountaineers, Robert Hall was a paradigm among climbers. Technically competent and possessed of a cool level-headedness, he collected mountain peaks as less adventurous people collect stamps, swiftly accumulating over a decade ascents of seven of the world's fourteen 8,000m peaks: Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, K2, Annapurna, Cho Oyu and Xizapangma. In a country where mountaineering is viewed with an almost religious fervour, he became something of an idol.

On the night of May 10 a savage blizzard swept Everest's desolate "death zone". Hall was making his descent from a summit which he had already conquered four times previously. His expedition included three clients who had paid £50,000 each to come. When the hurricane force winds struck him, as chief guide, stayed behind with the weakest member of the party, forced to shelter in a snow hole at an altitude of nearly 9,000m. Without sufficient protection, food or liquid to sustain them, Hall's companion died, and though Hall maintained radio contact with his wife in base camp for a further two days, he was severely frost-bitten and lacking the strength for the murderously tricky descent. He

too died, it was assumed, at some time on May 12.

Robert Edwin Hall was brought up in Christchurch, in easy reach of the mountainous terrain of New Zealand's South Island. In 1979, at the age of 18, he first distinguished himself as a climber when he made a demanding winter ascent of Mount Cook. The next year he became the youngest New Zealander to attempt the ascent of a major Himalayan peak, reaching the snowy crown of Ama Dablam



which towers at 6,812m. But it was in 1981 that he affirmed a lofty reputation among New Zealand's climbers when he topped both his previous achievements with the first ever winter ascent of the Caroline Face of Mount Cook in just eight-and-a-half hours. The fastest summer ascent of this mountain face had at that time been a full 20 hours.

In 1990, along with Gary Ball and Sir Edmund Hillary's son Peter, Hall conquered the "seven summits" — the

highest points on each of the world's land masses — in the remarkably short time of seven months. He also spent time as a survival instructor at the Scott Base in Antarctica and made the first descent by paraglider from Mount Cook.

To fund his mountain climbing, Hall set up a firm called Adventure Consultants. Although many questioned the judiciousness of allowing inexperienced mountaineers to buy a place on expeditions to treacherous pinnacles, Hall — with his meticulous attention to detail — was as safe and prudent a guide as could be wished.

He operated, however, in an area where no amount of technology, experience or organisation can ever guarantee survival and in 1993 his closest friend and the co-director of Adventure Consultants died of pulmonary oedema while the two were climbing together on Dhaulagiri.

Hall was vice-president of the New Zealand Alpine Club, New Zealand Mountaineer of the Year in 1987 and a recipient of the Himalayan Rescue Association Award in 1989. In 1990 he was awarded the New Zealand Medal.

He is survived by his wife Jan Arnold whom he met when she was studying high altitude medicine at Pheruche in Nepal. She accompanied him on several of his ascents, including those of Everest, Cho Oyu, Mount Vinson in Antarctica and Carstensz Pyramid in Papua New Guinea. She was seven months pregnant when she accompanied him to base camp on what was to turn out to be her husband's last climb.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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YAMAHA G1, white body grand piano, 1993, £2,500. Tel: 0171 700 2001. Fax: 0171 700 2002. Email: info@yamaha.co.uk

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1993 Yamaha G1, white body grand piano, 1993, £2,500. Tel: 0171 700 2001. Fax: 0171 700 2002. Email: info@yamaha.co.uk

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NEWS

'Production line justice' attacked

The Lord Chief Justice today delivers a savage parting shot to the Home Secretary, accusing him of bringing in production line justice on the basis of tainted statistics.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth, who is retiring from ill health, challenges Michael Howard over accusations that judges impose soft sentences and warns him that minimum jail terms would vastly increase the prison population. Page 1

Father tells of Jaymee's fight

The father of Jaymee Bowen, the 11-year-old girl finally beaten by leukaemia, spoke of her last days and pledged to continue his legal fight over her treatment saying: "She will win in the end." David Bowen said his daughter, who came to prominence as "Child B" in a legal battle with Cambridge health authority, had shown awesome courage. Pages 1, 9

Beef 'war cabinet'

John Major and Malcolm Rifkind have created a "war cabinet" to demonstrate the seriousness of the threat to paralyse the European Union over the beef crisis. Pages 1, 12, 13

Oyston jailed for rape

The flamboyant millionaire businessman Owen Oyston was jailed for six years for the "horrendous" rape of a 16-year-old former model. Page 1, 3

Pithead clue

Initials on an old canvas trunk found under the roof of the Natural History Museum may finally have solved the riddle of Pithead Man, the century's most notorious scientific fraud. Page 1

Divorce Bill battle

The Government made a last-ditch attempt to rescue its beleaguered divorce reform Bill, with Labour renewing its threat to vote it down. Page 2

Law Society attack

Fresh turmoil erupted at the Law Society when one of its best-known past presidents, Rodger Farnone, attacked its leaders as unfit to govern. Page 4

Civic ties sundered

Apathy is being blamed as the fishing communities of Lowestoft and Katwijk in The Netherlands end 34 years as twin towns. The citizens of Katwijk see little point in the civic ties. Page 6

Art lovers throng to view Degas

The Degas exhibition which opened at the National Gallery in London has sold more advance tickets than any previous show at the gallery. As art lovers ignored the rain in a queue for tickets, exhibition curators were already hailing the show as a popular and critical success. More than 3,500 advance tickets have been sold. Page 5

Candidate rejected

The Labour Party's ruling body has deselected John Lloyd, the parliamentary candidate for Exeter, over his past links with terrorism in South Africa. Page 10

Duelling guitars

Eric Clapton or Jimi Hendrix? Chuck Berry or Pete Townshend? Just who is the greatest rock guitarist? A magazine survey seeks to end the debate. Page 11

Rock roadblock

Spain has responded to the conciliatory new Government in Gibraltar by imposing greater obstacles on travellers wishing to cross its border with the British colony. Page 14

Swiss bomb plan

Switzerland, famed for its armed neutrality, considered building a nuclear bomb, according to a Swiss historian. Page 15

Clinton forces issue

Republicans accused President Clinton of trying to delay a sexual harassment lawsuit by suggesting that as commander-in-chief of the US Armed Forces he could have the same rights as a soldier on active duty. Page 16

Polling errors

Israel's election was thrown wide open with the publication of a Labour Party document alleging that opinion polls were over-estimating support for the Prime Minister, Shimon Peres. Page 17



A painting by Damien Hirst containing 56 coloured dots sells for £32,200 at Christie's in London yesterday. Report, page 5

ECONOMY

Economy: The Bank of England has warned mortgage lenders that they could be creating trouble for themselves by offering big discounts. Page 25

Hotels: Granada, the media and leisure group that won Forte in a £3.9 billion takeover battle in January, surprised the City by announcing that it would sell Forte's Exclusive chain of hotels. Page 25

Phone numbers: Nynex CableComms became the first cable company to introduce phone-number portability. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 25.2 points to close at 3764.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.8 to 84.6 after a fall from \$1.5135 to \$1.5103 and from DM2.3332 to DM2.3237. Page 28

SPORT

Crickets: The Texaco Trophy one-day international series between England and India begins at the Oval overshadowed by the ill-timed serialisation of a book by the chairman of selectors, Ray Illingworth. Page 48

Football: Gary and Philip Neville become the second set of brothers this century to represent England in the same match when they play against China. Page 48

Athletics: The British federation was accused of "spiteful" behaviour towards Diane Modahl after her omission from the reserve squad for the European Cup. Page 42

Racing: Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of one of 34 entries left in the Derby, Stereo Dancer, who is believed to be in Serbia. Page 43

ARTS

Film of the week: Fresh from winning the top prize at Cannes, Mike Leigh's tender *Secrets & Lies* hits Britain; while the only fear expressed in the Richard Gere thriller *Primal Fear* is the fear of being original. Page 35

Famous collector: A National Gallery show, running in conjunction with the big Degas exhibition, offers a fascinating insight into the artist as collector of other people's work. Page 35

New videos: Some fine performances and plenty of period detail enliven *The Madness of King George*. Page 36

Gallery growth: Thanks to a £3 million lottery handout, expansion at the Serpentine Gallery in London is under way. Page 37

FEATURES

Joe Joseph: Virginia Bottomley has a mystical talent for selecting photo-opportunities that, somehow, manage to make her look just completely barking. Page 19

Catalan icon: Elegant Barcelona is in the grip of an ill-tempered revolt after the city's football club sacked its acclaimed Dutch coach, Tunku Varadarajan reports. Page 20

BODY AND MIND

Child B: Much has been written about Jaymee Bowen as the feisty schoolgirl fighting cancer, but little has been said about her darker days. Page 18

TRAVEL

Tropical adventures: The changing nature of exotic honeymoons. Plus flight, ferry, holiday and hotel bargains. Pages 40, 41

BOOKS

Good reads: Why does Sappho seem a lone voice? Peter Stothard on women poets in the ancient world; Peter Ackroyd on Thomas Cranmer. Pages 38, 39

THE PAPERS

Those who have benefited most from the United Nations embargo against Iraq have been, primarily, Saudi Arabia, which has seen its own oil production rise, and, indirectly, America, which has converted its ally into a major commercial client. — *El Pais*

TOMORROW

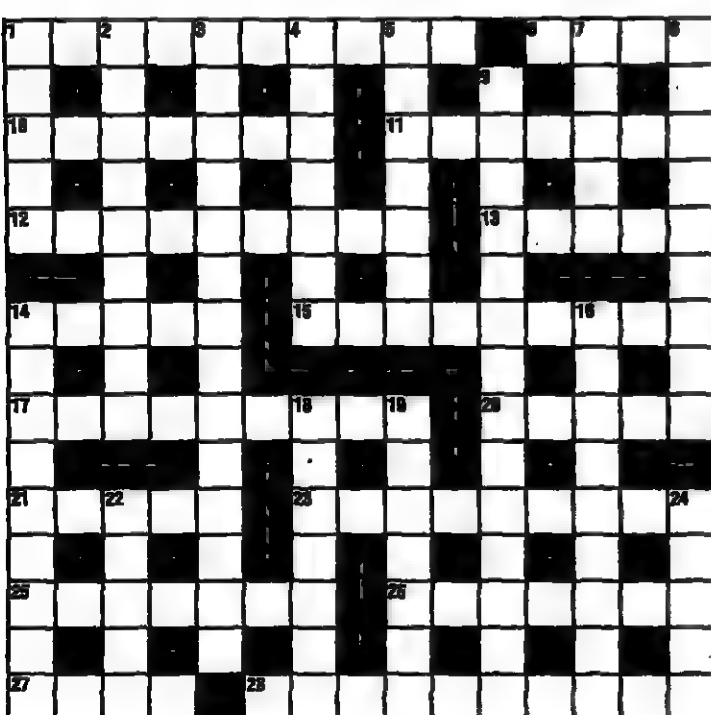
IN THE TIMES

POP
David Sinclair on *Return of the Real*, the new album from gangsta rapper Ice-T

MULTIMEDIA
A 16-page guide for parents on education and the new breed of home computers



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,175



- ACROSS**
- 1 Trouble in orchards, unusually brief and inconsequential (4-6)
 - 6 Blow this hairstyle! (4)
 - 10 Abandoned cricket side on pitch (4-3)
 - 11 Improper distribution to players at start (7)
 - 12 Oriental poet's always comprehending a grave (9)
 - 13 The French hail and farewell (5)
 - 14 Waylay in a section of flight (5)
 - 15 He avoids the bishop in a Barset novel (9)
 - 17 Countering ill-feeling in opponent of union presentation (9)
 - 20 Bitter's free, going by the bill (5)
 - 21 Have one's eye on bloke Times leader on (5)
 - 23 Suitable for listener, opening broadcast (9)
 - 25 In the wind, it goes higher than the rest (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Piece of documentary film, reduced - and shortened (5)
 - 2 Proof against train-sets being damaged (9)
 - 3 Boating, radioed for repair? Breaking down, naturally (1-4)
 - 4 Royal visitor from Spain, intrigued by freak tree in nursery? (7)
 - 5 Bone's vibration sure to be troublesome (7)
 - 7 A time to show up in amphitheatre (5)
 - 8 Gordon-led riot a bloomer (6,3)
 - 9 How explicit was A. Bronie under cover? (2,5,2,1,4)
 - 14 No works of Landseer, might one presume? (9)
 - 16 Naturalness of average resort of Italy (9)
 - 18 Earth's surface covers valuable raw material (7)
 - 19 Guard's concern (4-3)
 - 22 Clergyman detained by civic architect (5)
 - 24 Large unorthodox music-maker (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 20,174

HOLST REINHARDT
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NEWSPRINT ACTOR
D E K S E V I E
SHRINKING WOLEY
P O N R A L
ORNATE PAINTERS
U N A R U
NARCOTIC PRAYER
S P E T U R
THE COAST GUARD
R M S P E R I
AMASS EMBARRASS
M I U N E N S E
PEDOMETER EMEND

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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Shetland:

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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Consequences of the 'war' against Europe

BOOKS 38, 39

Thomas Cranmer: a reformer misunderstood?

SPORT 42-48

Neville brothers join forces in England's cause

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MAY 23 1996

Granada surprises City with its hotel reservations

By ERIC REGULY

GRANADA, the media and leisure group that won Forte in a £3.9 billion hostile takeover battle in January, surprised the City yesterday with the announcement that it would sell Forte's Exclusive chain of trophy hotels but keep the larger Meriden chain. Granada had originally intended to sell both hotel groups to cut its high debt.

The move appears to deliver a blow to Sir Rocco Forte, the former Forte group chairman and chief executive, who had been preparing to bid for the Exclusive and Meriden together. He said: "I am not interested in Exclusive on its own. I am only interested in the complete package."

Analysts noted, however, that Granada has a fiduciary duty to consider a bid for both chains if one were made. Sir Rocco would not comment on any plans he has to launch an unsolicited bid for the groups as a whole, though he and Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, are said to be on friendly terms. With the help of his advisers, including J.P. Morgan, the New York bank, Sir Rocco has loans in place that would make his bid credible.

During the takeover battle, Forte valued the Exclusive and Meriden chains together at about £1.6 billion, with the Exclusive hotels worth somewhat more than half of that amount. The hotels in the Exclusive portfolio include Brown's and the Hyde Park in London, the Plaza Athénée in New York and Paris, the Eden in Rome and the Sandy Lane in Barbados.

The 85 Meriden hotels are a notch below the Exclusives, but are still considered five-star. They are scattered worldwide and generally trade under the Meriden name. Granada said it decided to keep the Meriden chain after a review of the Forte hotels because it had more profit potential. Mr Robinson said the review "identified the potential for substantial improvement and development using our own management control and focus".

Granada is expected to put new management teams into the Meriden and run its hotels as a group instead of individual properties. Lazard Brothers, Granada's financial adviser, will publish the Exclusive's sales document within two weeks. It has received dozens of inquiries from potential buyers, including the Barclay brothers, who own the Ritz and Howard hotels in London. Other possible purchasers include ITT Sheraton, Marriott, and Middle and Far Eastern investors.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3764.2	(-25.2)
Yield	5.79%	(-0.01%)
FT-SE All share	1022.50	(-10.88)
Nikkei	21858.00	(-133.74)
Dow Jones	5728.50	(-7.78%)
S&P Composite	672.71	(-0.05%)

Pennington, page 27

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	8 3/8%	(8 3/8%)
Yield	6.88%	(6.88%)

3-mth Interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Libor 3m	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
3-mth T-bill	100%	(100%)

New York	1.5100*	(1.5100)
London	1.5102	(1.5102)
Frankfurt	1.5102	(1.5102)
Paris	1.5102	(1.5102)
Madrid	1.5102	(1.5102)
Amsterdam	1.5102	(1.5102)
Brussels	1.5102	(1.5102)
Geneva	1.5102	(1.5102)
Zurich	1.5102	(1.5102)
Basel	1.5102	(1.5102)
Stockholm	1.5102	(1.5102)
Copenhagen	1.5102	(1.5102)
Helsinki	1.5102	(1.5102)
Tokyo	1.5102	(1.5102)
Singapore	1.5102	(1.5102)
Hong Kong	1.5102	(1.5102)
Manila	1.5102	(1.5102)
Batavia	1.5102	(1.5102)
Calcutta	1.5102	(1.5102)
Rangoon	1.5102	(1.5102)
Colombo	1.5102	(1.5102)
Madras	1.5102	(1.5102)
Bombay	1.5102	(1.5102)
Delhi	1.5102	(1.5102)
Jaipur	1.5102	(1.5102)
Varanasi	1.5102	(1.5102)
Patna	1.5102	(1.5102)
Bhubaneswar	1.5102	(1.5102)
Cuttack	1.5102	(1.5102)
Bhubaneswar	1.5102	(1.5102)
Cuttack	1.5102	(1.5102)

Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$18.40	(\$18.00)
London close	\$381.85	(\$380.00)

Rate threat

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, made it clear at his April 3 meeting with the Bank of England Governor that he would be prepared to raise interest rates if economic growth proved "unsustainably fast". Page 26

Green law

Business would like to see the Government police environmental law more rigorously, according to a survey of leading companies by Enric, the environmental consultancy. The main concerns were water and air pollution, waste disposal and contaminated land. Page 30

Warning by Bank on loan discounts

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England has issued a severe warning to mortgage lenders, saying that banks and building societies could be creating trouble for themselves by offering heavy discounts and cash-back offers.

The Bank believes that lenders have been lulled into a false sense of security by the current low interest-rate environment, and the savings market, which is distorted by billion of pounds tied up in savings accounts waiting for building societies to convert to bank status.

Four building societies are planning to become banks next year — Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock. The free share distribution to savers is dependent on keeping a minimum amount in their savings accounts. In most cases the higher the amount, the higher the share distribution.

The Bank fears that if interest rates suddenly rise over the next 18 months just as savings are withdrawn, it could lead to trouble for lenders and might threaten their capital strength.

This comes hard on the heels of last week's warning from the Building Societies Commission that lenders should put limits on the amount of discounted business. Some of up to £9,000 are being offered to borrowers who transfer their mortgages.

Privately, most UK mortgage lenders are worried about the level of discounting and the special deals on offer, but none is prepared to make the first move to pull out.

The Bank's warning was contained in the annual *Banking Act* report, published yesterday. In it the Bank said that, over the past year, there had been a noticeable increase in competition for mortgage lending. While this was good for those with access to this finance, and while it was clear that the banking industry "generally is well capitalised", it was clear that the competition for savings was not as intense as for lending.

The Bank believes that as some lenders are better at credit assessment than others, and some are lower-cost producers, those with poor risk assessment procedures and higher cost bases could suffer.

The British Bankers' Association said yesterday that it would examine the issue of disclosure of the effect of discounts and incentives as part of its review of its statement of recommended accounting practice on advances. The BBA revised statement is to be published by the end of the summer.

The Bank report said it was "important that lenders continue to assess carefully the terms on which they write business. Caution also needs to be exercised in the methods of accounting which are adopted for any schemes used to induce business."

Its concern about accounting centres on the reluctance of some lenders, most recently Cheltenham & Gloucester, to disclose how profits would have been affected if the cost of cash-backs and discounts had been written off immediately.

Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS, said most building societies do write off cash-backs immediately, while banks tend to amortize the cost over the period of time the customer is locked in to the lender when it has taken one of the special deals on offer — usually three or five years.

The Bank suggested that it did not have a view on whether the amount should be written off or amortized, but it felt strongly that there should be more accounting openness.

Only Abbey National was singled out as a lender that amortizes the cost and provides sufficient information in its accounts to demonstrate the cost. Abbey disclosed that if it had written off the cost of special offers immediately it would have knocked £105 million from its £1.02 billion profits last year.

The annual report showed that Eddie George, the governor, received a £3,008 pay rise in the year, taking his total pay package to £232,423.



Rain failed to halt the opening of the Corney & Barrow Golf Croquet League at Exchange Square in the Broadgate, London. Pictured, from left, are Roger Ambrose, of the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, David Goodenough, and Nick Tant, both representing Kleinwort Benson, and Count Edouard de Nazelle, who was playing for Veuve Clicquot

CBI backs Major on beef stance

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders yesterday unambiguously closed ranks behind the Government's policy of non-cooperation with Europe over beef.

As leaders of the Confederation of British Industry unhesitatingly supported the Prime Minister's move, the CBI's policy of strict political neutrality in the run-up to the election came under strain when its new president, Sir Colin Marshall, endorsed John Major's prospects at the polls.

After the Government's aggressive declaration against the EU over its beef ban, CBI leaders, who have been calling for a rational, unemotional and thought-through debate over Europe, tried to shrug off what many believe could be the damage to business of a ban on European co-operation.

Bass acts coy on takeover aims

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SIR IAN PROSSER, chairman of Bass, yesterday predicted strong organic growth for the brewing and leisure company, but remained coy about its acquisition aims.

Sir Ian said that Bass was interested in strengthening its divisions through a large purchase but was under no pressure to act.

"There is a lot of opportunity for us to grow organically, but we also have the firepower to take other opportunities when they arise," he said.

Sir Ian said he wanted to see more consolidation in the brewing sector, but refused to comment on speculation about Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewer. Bass has been linked with it, and also with William Hill, the betting chain, and Ladbroke, the hotel company.

Bass yesterday unveiled a 10 per cent rise in interim profits, to £289 million, above expectations.

This, and a bullish trading statement, helped Bass shares to rise 20p, to 788p.

The company said that it would speed up growth and was aiming to raise capital expenditure by £250 million, to £600 million, for the full year. Bass aims to open 100 new pubs by September and hopes to add a backlog of 516 hotels to the Holiday Inn chain over the next two years.

There was a strong performance by the hotel division, with Holiday Inn lifting its operating profits by 19 per cent to £76 million. Managed houses increased operating profits by 23 per cent, to £106 million.

Bad weather and National Lottery scratchcards hit leisure division profits, down by 17 per cent, to £35 million.

A 7.7p interim dividend, up 8.5 per cent, is due on July 29.

Liberty to close 20 UK branches

By SARAH BAGNALL

LIBERTY, the upmarket but financially stretched retail and fabrics group, is to close 20 branches with the loss of 350 jobs.

The move, which will cost £5 million, leaves the group's retail activities focused on its flagship Regent Street store, three airport shops and three Muiji outlets, which are a joint venture with a Japanese partner. The shares fell 15p to 355p.

The news follows last month's boardroom shake-up, involving the departure of Patrick Austen, chief executive, and the announcement of a fundamental strategic review aimed at repositioning the group.

The closure of the loss-making branches is the first result of the review.

The branches are spread across the country from Glasgow to Exeter and the latest one to open was in Fenchurch Street in the City of London last September.

Ian Thomson, who took over as chief executive on Mr Austen's departure, said: "The branches are not profitable. To replicate the Regent Street store in a very small space is not possible and as a result strategically they don't fit."

At the time of the management reshuffle, Liberty gave warning that it would make significant exceptional charges and yesterday it said the £5 million closure costs would only form part of these expected charges.

Liberty is due to announce its full-year results on June 7 and yesterday Mr Thomson said: "Details of the other substantial exceptional provisions required for the repositioning of the company will be included in the statement." In April, the group warned shareholders that pre-tax profits and exceptional items would not exceed £2.1 million in the year to January 27, against £3.6 million last year.

The prospect of further large exceptional charges raises a question mark over the future of the group's non-retail activities. These include a printing works in France, an affiliation with Oxford University to make clothing and gifts with the university logo, and a dress and furnishing fabric wholesale business.

Liberty also announced the appointment of Andrew Garey as finance director. The closures of the branches will start on June 6 and are expected to be completed by mid-August.

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Clarke will raise rates if growth accelerates

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, made it clear at his April 3 meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, that he would be prepared to raise interest rates if economic growth proved "unsustainably fast".

Mr Clarke also reasserted his belief that the economy would grow at 3 per cent this year with activity picking up in the second half of the year.

The Chancellor's continued faith in his GDP prediction implies that there will be little scope for further rate cuts before the general election, though City forecasters are predicting much lower GDP growth of about 2.5 per cent. The minutes of the monthly monetary meeting also show the Chancellor's thinking was largely in line with that of Mr George.

The Bank of England supported Mr Clarke's view that the Government would meet its 2.5 per cent inflation target next year and agreed that rates should be left unchanged at 6 per cent.

Cost and price pressures are described as "subdued", and, while there is some concern expressed over the slowdown in manufacturing, neither Mr Clarke nor Mr George felt that there was a big risk to this sector of the economy by leaving rates unchanged.

The two men agreed that while there were signs of an improvement in the housing market, led by rising house prices, there was presently no sign of a knock-on effect on retail prices.

But Mr George expressed some concern about monetary growth and suggested there was a risk of higher inflation in the medium term.



Sir John Banham, left, chairman of Kingfisher, with Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, at yesterday's AGM

Kingfisher upbeat as sales surge

By SARAH BAGNALL

KINGFISHER, the B&Q to Comet retail group, delivered an upbeat statement yesterday on first quarter trading, and an intention to seek a secondary listing for the shares in Paris.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, said at the annual meeting that each of the retail businesses — Woolworths, B&Q, Comet, Superdrug and Darty, the French electrical retailer — had lifted sales.

Overall, the group raised like-for-like sales by 6.4 per cent to £1.2 billion in the 13 weeks to May 4, helping to lift the shares 12p to 620p.

Strong sales of multi-media PCs helped Comet to a 13 per cent rise in like-for-like sales; sales of toys and home essentials helped Woolworths lift underlying sales by 7.5 per cent. Superdrug sales rose 2 per cent while at B&Q, sales rose by 3.4 per cent.

Darty lifted underlying sales by 5.1 per cent. The decision to seek a Paris listing reflects increased interest in Kingfisher because of Darty.

Unilateral trade embargo on Cuba leaves US isolated

FROM JANET BUSH IN PARIS

A FURIOUS row over America's unilateral trade embargo against Cuba was no nearer being resolved yesterday — after two days of bitter discussion which dominated the annual meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The US Administration found itself isolated over its enactment of the Helms-Burton law under which American citizens can sue companies from other countries investing in Cuba. The law was signed after Cuba shot down civilian aircraft in February.

At the two-day meeting here

which ended yesterday, 20 out of 27 OECD members spoke out against America's unilateral action, arguing that it flew in the face of the multilateral approach to trade disputes enshrined in the Gatt world trade treaty signed in 1947. They are particularly angry that the US should take action which hurts its trading partners.

Canada, which has made a formal complaint within the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), describes the American action as a violation of international law and threatened to retaliate if the US does not back down.

Art Eggleton, Canada's Trade Minister, said: "How can we talk about strengthening the multilateral system and the security of investment that it is supposed to ensure when one country takes unilateral action. That is why we are protesting."

Other delegations made it clear that they too are considering a counter-attack and the European Commission is in the process of making a formal complaint under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation which is now supposed to arbitrate in international trade disputes.

British officials said that

they were determined to keep the pressure on the US in the hope that similar legislation pending in Congress, which would apply sanctions against Iran and Libya, might be headed off. The US delegation yesterday said that this is currently being discussed by Congress and the Administration.

But American officials were unrepentant at the end of the OECD discussions. They took the line that countries complaining about their unilateral action against Cuba might have been in a stronger position if they had joined the Americans in condemning terrorism by rogue states.

Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of the Administration's Council of Economic Advisers, yesterday stressed that the US was totally committed to strengthening the multilateral trading system but said that, until this had been fully formed, there would still be cases when bilateral action would have to be taken.

However, the Administration is discussing how fully the Helms-Burton law will be implemented in a number of international arenas in an attempt to soften criticism and even full-scale retaliation by its major trading partners.

Oasis legal adviser appeals over rebuke

By JASON NISSE

A SENIOR City lawyer who advised the chairman and deputy chairman of Oasis Stores, the retailer, in their controversial purchase of the company from receivership, is appealing against a severe rebuke from the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau over his advice on the deal.

The purchase is the subject of a legal action served on Oasis and four of its directors yesterday by Graham and Edwina Brown, who founded the chain with £400 in the 1970s and are demanding that the £210 million business should be sold back to them for just £1.5 million.

Michael Bennett, Oasis's chairman, said accusations that he and the other directors fraudulently or negligently gained control of the company five years ago were unfounded, but he would have to take legal advice on the legal basis of the claim by the Browns.

Peter Gold, former senior partner of Titmuss Sainer Dechert, the City lawyer, advised Pinewood, the company that owned Oasis until it went into receivership in January 1991.

The current management,

led by Mr Bennett and his brother Maurice, then bought the group out of receivership for £1.5 million. Mr Gold advised them throughout the deal and Titmuss Sainer Dechert remains as lawyer to Oasis.

In a ruling made in January 1993, after a complaint by the Browns, Mr Gold was rebuked for two breaches of the Law Society's principles of professional conduct, mainly dealing with the conflict of interest between advising Pinewood and also giving advice to the Bennett brothers.

He appealed and the case has been referred to the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal, which has yet to deliver a final ruling.

Mr Gold has retired from Titmuss Sainer Dechert, but remains a consultant. John Hurme, a senior partner at the firm, said it believed that Mr Gold would be cleared following the appeal.

Another complaint by the Browns against David Saron, Oasis's finance director, alleging misconduct over the buyout, was thrown out by the Institute of Chartered Accountants last month.

Daimler under fire from shareholders

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE annual meeting of Daimler-Benz, Germany's flagship industrial group, yesterday resembled a bear pit as angry shareholders taunted, criticised and abused the board for misleading promises and bungled management.

Daimler-Benz failed to pay a dividend this year, for the first time since 1950, after announcing record losses of DM5.7 billion (£2.4 billion). But it was not merely the loss of a dividend that set the shareholders baying.

Edzard Reuter, chairman, promised last year that Daimler would improve profits, or at least maintain 1994 levels, depending on currency fluctuations. But the company seemed to lurch from one crisis to another. It had to cut 8,800 jobs from its aerospace division, dismantle and dispose of the AEG group and withdraw from Fokker, the Dutch aeroplane manufacturer.

Herr Reuter resigned but

that has done little to calm the shareholders, 9,000 of whom crowded into the Schleyer Hall in Stuttgart. Professor Ekkehard Wenger led the assault. He has already asked the Stuttgart prosecutor to press charges against Herr Reuter and other members of the board for breaking paragraph 400 of the Share Trading Law, which provides for a possible three-year jail sentence against a board member who misleads or conceals information from shareholders.

More than 30 critical motions were tabled before the meeting began and shareholders were told to limit their speeches to 15 minutes each.

The Daimler revolt seems to signal the beginning of a new trend in Germany. There is already a Union of Critical Shareholders, which concentrates on criticising ecologically unsound projects, human rights records, and involvement in arms deals.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Alliance & Leicester to close 450 agencies

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER, the building society which plans to become a £2.5 billion bank next spring, announced the closure of more than 450 agencies that serve local and rural communities, but its branch network will remain unaffected. The society, which also owns Girobank, and plans to pay three million qualifying members an average of £900 worth of free shares when it becomes a stock market company, said yesterday that of the 475 agencies operating throughout the UK, only 50 would be retained. Alliance & Leicester added that the remaining agencies would be given three months' notice, setting a closure date of late August.

The closure of the agencies will affect tens of thousands of customers who cannot travel to the nearest branch and is seen as part of the deck-clearing needed to become a leaner operation prior to flotation next year. The society said that to update the agents' technology would require a multimillion-pound investment programme that could not be justified. Kevin Southwood, managing director of Alliance & Leicester's personal financial services, said: "We recognise that the closure of agencies will cause some inconvenience in the short term and we would like to apologise unreservedly for this."

Gas repeats complaint

BRITISH GAS yesterday used the launch of a national helpline for gas leaks to further press its case against the pricing formula for its pipeline business proposed by Ofgas, the regulator. But while the company, which claims that 10,000 jobs could be lost if the price plans, from Clare Spottiswoode, go ahead, reiterated its fears over safety of the system, Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said: "We do wish British Gas would stop frightening the public in a premature attempt to dissuade Ofgas from its proposals for tighter price controls."

Pattullo's stake worry

SIR Bruce Pattullo, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, has written to shareholders expressing concern about plans by Standard Life, the bank's biggest shareholder, to sell some or all of its 32.2 per cent stake. In a letter with the bank's annual report, he says: "The whole issue of whether or not Standard Life sells any of its holding of ordinary stock, and if so how, is naturally a matter of great concern." The report, for the year to February 29, shows that Sir Bruce's remuneration of £389,000 included £39,000 from profit sharing and a £65,000 bonus.

Four on HMSO shortlist

FOUR bidders have been shortlisted as potential buyers of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO), the Government's printer, publisher and stationary and office equipment supplier. They are Capita Group, in partnership with 3i and Mercury Asset Management; a Hambros consortium; National Publishing Group, a consortium led by Electra Fleming; and Westminster Information Systems, led by NatWest Ventures. HMSO is based in Norwich and employs about 2,900 people. There were 14 indicative bids.

Ruling could free £3bn

A RULING by the House of Lords yesterday could release up to £3 billion of insurance claims which have been frozen in the London reinsurance market. The ruling, which upheld an earlier judgment by the Court of Appeal, deals with the issue of "pay as paid". This requires insurance companies to pay out only their underlying claims before they can collect any reinsurance. However, in the case of collapsed insurance companies, their only assets are their reinsurance policies and they need to collect the funds first in order to pay out money owed.

Royal & Sun details

SHAREHOLDERS in Royal Insurance and the Sun Alliance Group have been sent documents outlining the structure of their proposed merger, which will create Britain's biggest insurance group. The new company will be called Royal & Sun Alliance Group plc. Royal shareholders, offered 1,067 Royal Sun Alliance shares for every 1,000 Royal shares, will be asked to approve the merger at an extraordinary meeting on 14 June. The £5.4 billion merger is also subject to approval from a separate court hearing and the European Commission.

Baggeridge pegs payout

BAGGERIDGE BRICK, the building materials company, is holding the interim dividend at 0.75p a share after suffering a downturn in profits to £724,000 before tax in the half-year to March 31 from £213 million. Earnings fell to 1.19p a share from 3.56p. The company blamed the continuing recession in the construction industry and the sluggish housing market, and said the harsh winter had hit demand for bricks. The board remains cautious over future prospects. The shares fell 2p to 108p.

Acquisition lifts Jarvis

SHARES in Jarvis rose 25p to 89p after the building and civil engineering group unveiled a big expansion with the £9 million acquisition of British Rail's Northern Infrastructure Maintenance Company (Nimco) based in York. Jarvis also announced a placing of 40.5 million new shares, at 58p each, to raise about £21.7 million through a 19-for-20 placing and open offer to fund the purchase and provide about £10 million for working capital needs. Jarvis plans a capital reorganisation to enable it to resume paying dividends.

Recs censured on codes

THREE regional electricity companies (Recs) have been censured by the industry regulator over their customer codes of conduct. Professor Stephen Littlechild singled out Northern Electric, ScottishPower and Manweb — which is owned by ScottishPower — for failing to produce codes of practice. He said: "This shows a disappointing lack of concern for their customers. I am pressing these companies to complete their work in the near future." Professor Littlechild spoke after endorsing codes for seven other companies.

P&O arm wins £250m contract for Shanghai

P&O's Bovis Asia Pacific subsidiary has won the biggest construction management contract so far awarded in China. The £250 million project is for a mixed use development in Shanghai consisting of a 50-storey office tower and two 22-storey residential blocks over shops.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, who is heading a trade mission to China, and Zhao Qi Zhen, vice-mayor of Shanghai. Mr Heseltine and the vice-mayor also took part in the opening of the new Shanghai office of the P&O group and Bovis Asia Pacific.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Boys	Swire
Australia \$	2.00	1.84	
Austria \$	17.41	15.91	
Belgium Fr	50.32	46.82	
Canada \$	2.18	2.02	
Cyprus Cyp£	0.754	0.689	
Denmark Kr	9.58	8.78	
Finland Mk	1.75	1.67	
France Fr	6.31	5.85	
Germany DM	2.48	2.28	
Greece Dr	364.00	369.00	
India Rs	1.25	1.15	
Hong Kong \$	12.34	11.34	
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94	
Israel Sh	5.3300	4.8900	
Italy Lira	2465.00	2211.00	
Japan Yen	175.90	169.90	
Netherlands Gld	0.589	0.554	
New Zealand \$	2.35	2.14	
Norway Kr	10.51	9.72	
Portugal Esc	20.50	18.93	
S Africa Rd	7.13	6.55	
Spain Pt	16.11	14.90	
Sweden Kr	10.51	10.11	
Switzerland Fr	2.05	1.87	
Taiwan \$	19.845	18.943	
USA \$	1.00	0.93	

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□ Big wages essential to City's competitiveness □ MMC must halt Alders sale □ Will Sir Rocco's plans be thwarted?

A safe haven for heavy hitters

□ BEST wishes to whichever lawyer takes the £700,000 on offer from Chadbourne & Peake, the American law firm looking for a heavy hitter to advise on project financing, but one wonders how long he or she will have to enjoy the money. We have all spent so long cosying up to new Labour that we may have lost sight of the full implications — at least for the City.

One of City analysts' duties today is to spot which sector of the market will do well under Tony Blair. But they may not have considered a matter rather closer to home, the effect on their own salaries. Labour has yet to put firm figures on its tax policies, but one must assume that the lawyer on £700,000 a year will be very much worse off. The party's mistake at the last election was to threaten punitive taxation on salaries around the £30,000 a year level that were regarded as modest in the areas of Britain Labour needed to capture, no matter how extravagant they might have seemed in its industrial heartland.

The decision at Watworth Road now is where to set the level above which earnings are punitively taxed. That £700,000 lawyer currently pays 40 per cent tax on almost all of it and takes home £35,000 a month. Assume 80 per cent taxation above the £100,000 level, not impossible

under Labour, and this falls to a rather less appealing £15,000. The recipient will rub shoulders each day in the City with professionals on the same whack whose pay would likewise fall. This is the perception gap between the City and outside that new Labour is unable to bridge because of old loyalties. What appears an obscenity in Grimsby sounds like a normal wage on Gresham Street.

Much was made five years ago of the threat to London from Frankfurt and other Continental exchanges. This threat never materialised. Germany's share of world stock market business may have grown since, but this growth has been comfortably exceeded in the City.

Overseas securities houses, particularly American, have felt comfortable setting up in London because they have been able to remunerate big hitters almost as well as at home. London's success has been tacitly accepted by the Continentals, which is why the second Big Bang over the past couple of years has seen them, too, pitching more tents in London.

Penalise high pay and Frankfurt looks rather more attractive. Take a look across the Atlantic. In New York, successive mayors, Democrat and Republican and no matter the financial crises they faced, have never threatened Wall Street, because New York is every bit as much a one-industry town as some misbegotten Mid-West backwater with a big defence contractor in its midst. London is heading the same way. New York exists to allow young professionals to make sackloads of money. A City of London that cannot offer "obscene" wage packets is one that cannot hope to compete.

Cause to ground duty-free deal

□ SWISSAIR's attempt to break up BAA's cosy deal to buy the duty free business from Alders raises two serious questions. Alders seems happy to sell its business to BAA for £15 million less than Swissair is willing to pay. Why, and what do its shareholders think of this? And should BAA be allowed to buy it



PENNINGTON

in the first place? The deal was precipitated by BAA's decision six months ago to take all its duty free sales in-house. Concessions for selling supposedly cheap drink, cigarettes and perfumes had long gone to two retailers, Alders and Alpha. But BAA, told them it would either terminate their contracts or not renew them as they ran out. Alders decided to sell out. Alpha, whose contracts run out between now and 1999, said it would rather strike deals for other concessions with BAA.

Duty free within the European Union will supposedly end in 1999 (if there still is a European Union, Mr Major). But there is still the long haul business, and a

rather lucrative one it is. Since being privatised ten years ago, BAA has survived one Monopoly and Mergers Commission inquiry into its all-consuming position in the South East with the three main airports. Earlier this week the Commons Transport Select Committee suggested that BAA should be forced to sell Gatwick and Stansted.

BAA's trenchant reply was that airports are a world market. Customers and airlines have a choice of flying from London, Paris, Copenhagen or Kuala Lumpur. Hogwash. If you want to fly into London, the only possible alternative is Luton, God forbid, unless you fancy Birmingham or Manchester (voted the world's favourite airport, by the way) and a drive back down the M6.

Not only does BAA own the airports, it will also own the duty free. If the Alders deal goes through, BAA will then have a near monopoly on duty free across the UK and large parts of Europe. Shareholders in Alders will no doubt see sense and back the higher Swissair bid. But what is needed is for the MMC to

look into the whole issue of duty free and block BAA's deal with Alders before it has a chance of going through.

Turn and turn again for Granada

□ WERE Gerry Robinson not so pragmatic a businessman, someone unwilling to hold a grudge where there is a profit to be made, it might be tempting to see the refusal to sell the Meridian hotels as his last revenge on Sir Rocco Forte for all those bitter words during the winter takeover battle.

Sir Rocco had made it absolutely clear that the Meridian chain was central to his entire strategy and financing. Readers of this column may not be too surprised at the decision by Granada not to sell. Retention had always seemed an attractive option, given the cost savings available from the sort of management skills Granada could bring to bear, the booming state of the hotels market and the (relatively) comfortable level of interest cover Granada is look-

ing at this financial year despite its £3.6 billion of debt.

Yesterday's formal announcement should have come as bad news to Sir Rocco and his aides perched incongruously above their former public relations adviser as they complete the necessary financing package. But there is the truth and there is the striking of a bargaining position, on both sides it seems.

Mr Robinson has now changed his mind twice, initially planning to sell the hotels, then aiming to sell them to assuage City concerns about debt and now willing to keep Meridian, at least. He might turn yet again, for a profit. And Sir Rocco's ambitions in hotels might not be so easily thwarted either.

Lucky break

□ THE National Lottery has been accused of any number of crimes — cannibalism, incest, mass starvation, no doubt, this week alone. But it is hard to see how it can have wiped a quarter of a billion pounds, or almost 40 per cent, off the value of William Hill's betting shops. More likely that George Walker's creation, which now comprises the betting shops and a chain of pubs, has taken the opportunity of the Lottery to write down the bookies to rather closer to what they are worth ahead of an eventual sale.

Courtaulds blames price instability for decline



Howard Evans, finance director, left, and Sipko Huisman

BY PAUL DURMAN

COURTAULDS has forecast that sales of Tencel, the "wonder fibre" on which it has pinned many of its hopes for the future, will be running at about £265 million a year by the end of next year.

Tencel moved into profit last year on estimated sales of about £50 million. Courtaulds has brought forward plans for a third Tencel plant in Grimsby, Humberside, that will increase its capacity to nearly 100,000 tonnes a year.

Gordon Campbell, who replaces Sipko Huisman as the company's chief executive after next month's annual meeting, said that demand continues to outstrip production capacity. Tencel, which, the company claims, feels like silk but is as tough as denim, is being used in clothes for Marks & Spencer, Next, Jaeger and many others.

Mr Campbell suggested that Tencel may represent 20 per cent of the group's total sales, currently £2.3 billion, by 2003. Courtaulds has invested about £250 million in Tencel.

The company was reporting a 13 per cent decline in annual pre-tax profits, to £131 million. Mr Huisman blamed the widely gyrating prices of key raw materials, acrylonitrile and woodpulp, which doubled and then collapsed back to the original levels within a year.

Mr Huisman said this "intolerable" instability

caused ordering delays for acrylics and viscose. Courtaulds had held on to its market share, however, while in the past, such price shocks would have produced "near total wipe-outs", he said.

Courtaulds wants to prevent a repeat, and is trying to tie its suppliers into longer term contracts. Profits from the fibres and chemicals business fell from £79 million to £58 million. The coatings and sealants arm increased profits by £10 million, to £71 million, helped by a debut contribution of £4 million from Meluhart & Veck, of Germany. Mr Campbell expects increased production by aerospace manufacturers to produce another good year for its business-making sealants to prevent fuel leaking out of aeroplanes.

Demand for Courtaulds' powder coatings in the Asia-Pacific region remained strong, and the company is building new factories in China and Korea. Total Far East profits fell £2 million, to £13 million, on sales of £165 million.

Polymer products, a division that includes performance films and toothpaste packaging, made £19 million (£20 million). Results were hit by problems moving a US factory. A final dividend of 11.6p increases the total to 15.9p a share (15.4p).

Floated Saks soars as buyers back luxury

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

SHARES in Saks Fifth Avenue, the upmarket Manhattan clothes store, soared to a hefty premium when trading began after its flotation, even though Saks has made big losses in the past five years.

Priced at \$25, the shares rose \$10, to \$35. In early trading yesterday as Saks's high-quality name attracted buyers in spite of the fact that last year the company reported a \$64 million net loss. The share issue raised \$360 million.

The success of the Saks offering mirrors Wall Street's enthusiasm for other luxury retailers. Earlier this week,

Gucci, the fashion and leather retailer, announced a surge in first-quarter sales of 113 per cent. The shares rose sharply, to \$70.50, against an issue price of \$22 last October.

Other companies to have issued shares in recent months include Donna Karan, the clothes designer and Estée Lauder, the cosmetics group. Their share prices have soared as investors rushed into what is widely seen as one of the most buoyant stock market sectors.

Saks, owned from 1973 to 1990 by BAT Industries, the British tobacco group, is now owned by Investcorp.

Land Securities raises payout but profits fall

BY CARL MORTIMER

LAND SECURITIES has again raised its dividend, in spite of another year of pressure on its earnings from the property group's £435 million development programme.

The payout for the full year is up 1p to 26p, although earnings per share fell from 34.56p to 33.92p in the year to March 31, reducing dividend from 1.4 times to 1.3 times. Pre-tax profits fell by 3 per cent to £238 million, a better result than forecast by the City. Land Securities said yesterday that it expected the dividend cover to fall further in the current year but indicated that the

payout was fully supported by positive cashflow.

Land Securities' portfolio diminished in value by 1 per cent, causing net asset value to drop 2p to 69p. The March revaluation showed a fall of 4.3 per cent in the City of London, and 4.7 per cent in industrial property. West End property values grew by 0.5 per cent, while retail warehouses rose 3.7 per cent.

Land Securities' building programme is half complete. The new buildings will bring an extra £45 million in rents.

Tempos, page 28

Shares at Chrysalis take wing

BY ERIC REGULY

CHRYSLIS has become something like the British Biotech of the media and music industry. It makes no profits and yet its shares are soaring on the expectation that all the spending on risky projects will eventually turn to gold.

Investors show no sign of losing faith in the Chrysalis dream in spite of the deeper interim losses reported yesterday. The shares, which have doubled in the past year, rose 38p to 523p. The reason for the optimism, apparently, is that Chrysalis has reached a turning point. Chris Wright, the chairman and 48 per cent owner, said that the change in the company's focus from leisure to multimedia is on the verge of paying dividends.

Mr Wright, who is as well-known for his lavish pay as his talent for producing programmes such as *The Sculptress* and *Crocodile Shoes*, said the company will actually make a profit within two years. Chrysalis is concentrating on building



Pauline Quirke, star of *The Sculptress*

an empire virtually from scratch. Mr Wright has started a new record label called Echo, which he claims is "poised to make a commercial breakthrough" even though it has not attracted the hottest new talent. Its latest recruits are banks by the name of Moloko and BabyBird.

He is also launching radio stations, among them Heart 106.2 in London, and is bidding for several licences. There is a new film company, Chrysalis Films, whose first release, *Stiff Upper Lips*, is coming out later this year. If the new films and the recording artists are successes, Chrysalis could break into profit earlier than expected.

In the half year to February 29, Chrysalis reported a pre-tax loss of £2.66 million, against a loss to £2.49 million in the previous period, on turnover of £56.3 million, up 20 per cent. Mr Wright said the losses were in line with expectations.

The loss per share after taxation and minority interests was 9.35p, compared to 9.92p. No interim dividend was payable and the company said it would announce the final dividend along with the year-end results in the autumn. In spite of the losses, Chrysalis said it could fund a major expansion of its radio interests. The company has £25 million in cash and has no plans for a rights issue.

Crest on target for July

MIDWAY through testing, Crest, the new electronic share settlement system that is due to replace the Stock Exchange's existing Talisman system, is still on track to go live on July 15 (Philip Pangalos writes).

The system is now being tested by 260 firms across the UK and Ireland. The transition, which is being supervised by the Bank of England, will begin on July 22, with the first settlement in Crest due to take place on August 19. The transition period is due to end next April.

The Crest system will have cost about £25 million from August 1993 to the time it is implemented. Total finance is £29 million, with the balance required to see Crest through until it starts to make money next year.

Lottery forces writedown in William Hill value

BY MARTIN BARROW

BRENT WALKER, the troubled leisure company, has written down the value of its William Hill betting shop chain by almost 39 per cent, blaming the impact of competition from the National Lottery (see Pennington, this page).

The company said the writedown, which reduces the book value of William Hill by £267.9 million to £427.9 million, reflected a severe decline in the profitability of the betting shops.

In 1995, William Hill's profits fell by one third to £38.7 million despite stringent cost controls put in place to limit the damage caused by the lottery and by instant scratchcards, which were introduced in March 1995.

After intense lobbying by the betting industry, the Government agreed to reduce

betting duty by one percentage point to 6.75 per cent from March 1996. However, Sir Brian Goswell, chairman of Brent Walker, said yesterday the reduction in betting duty was not sufficient "to redress the many competitive advantages of the National Lottery" and the betting industry would lobby for further cuts in duty.

Sir Brian said: "It is still difficult to ascertain the effect of the National Lottery as we do not know whether this has now reached its peak or whether the possible introduction of a midweek draw will cause a further decrease in the turnover of betting shops."

The heavy writedown weighed heavily on Brent Walker's 1995 results, which revealed losses of £414.5 million (£142.7 million). Turnover was little changed at £1.66

billion, against £1.69 billion. Sir Brian said the group "remains in an uncertain financial position". Brent Walker has debts of around £1.4 billion and, after a refinancing that was put in place in 1994, is again in talks with its bankers to secure its future beyond 1997.

Brent Walker also owns Pubmaster, one of the country's largest independent pub estates, which lifted profits to £16.3 million last year from £13.3 million previously, largely thanks to a reduction in rents payable. The value of the pub estate has also been written down by £17.9 million.

In total £305.2 million has been written off the carrying value of assets, increasing the deficit on shareholders' funds to £1.198 billion after an interest charge of £160 million for the year.

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Worries hit the utilities to lead equities lower

GROWING political and regulatory worries took their toll on utility companies, leaving brokers wondering if the privatisation gravy train is finally slowing down.

Leading the electricity companies lower was the National Grid, 6p off at 177p, ahead of publication of the regulators' price formula. If it is even half as tough as proposals suggested by the gas regulator for British Gas, a fresh wave of selling is likely.

The rest of the electricity sector lost ground, still uncertain what steps an incoming Labour government would introduce. East Midlands fell 1p to 590p, London 2p to 702p, Southern 13p to 747p, PowerGen 12p to 517p and National Power 8p to 520p.

The water companies also had a worried look as they continued to reflect on this week's decision to refer bids by Severn Trent, down 13p at 546p, and Wessex, unchanged at 302p, for South West Water, 8p lower at 651p, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Other losers included Anglian Water, down 1p to 518p, United Utilities, down 10p to 549p, and Yorkshire, down 12p to 619p.

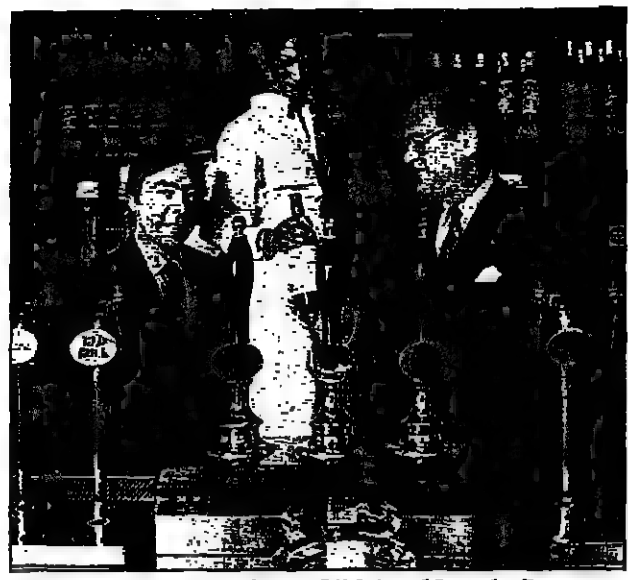
The rest of the equity market suffered sharp falls, with investors becoming increasingly nervous about the Government's tough stance against the European beef ban. Sharp falls in government bonds combined with a sell-off in the financial futures added to the market's woes.

An opening fall on Wall Street left the FT-SE 100 index nursing a deficit of 25.2 points at 3,764.2 as turnover reached 804 million shares.

There was further heavy turnover in Railtrack as the price slipped 1p to 219p. BZW has issued a covered warrant in Railtrack amounting to 25 million shares, issued at 21p. The issue was oversubscribed.

Evidence of an all-round increase in first-quarter sales at Kingfisher, the Woolworth, Comet, Superdrug and B&Q stores group, was rewarded with a rise of 12p to 620p. Brokers were impressed with a positive performance from B&Q, the group's struggling DIY arm.

Kingfisher told shareholders that overall sales were up almost 11 per cent to £1.24 billion and were up 6.4 per cent on a like-for-like basis. But with the group heavily



Sir Ian Prosser, right, and Richard North, finance director of Bass. The share rose 20p on first-half results

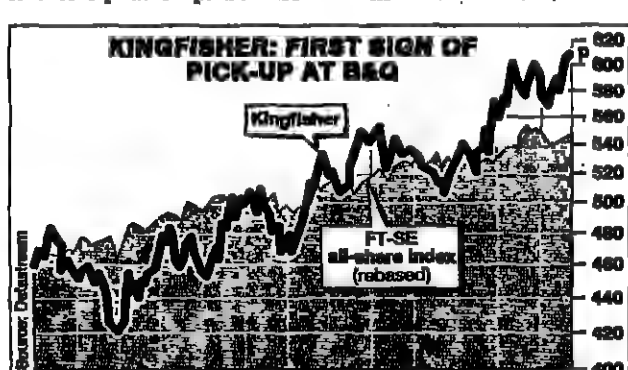
dependent on the second half, few brokers were ready to raise their year-end forecasts.

Easy come, easy go, seems to be the motto at British Biotechnology as the shares gave up all of Tuesday's sharp gains. The price succumbed to profit-taking, ending 250p lower at £30.65 on turnover of less than one million shares. They almost touched £38 at

National Westminster Bank fell 12p to 627p after NatWest Securities, its own broking arm, reduced its profit forecast by £100 million, to £1.26 billion. It blames the move on the higher than expected cost of restructuring its branches and recommends clients switch into rival Barclays Bank, 6p easier at 776p.

one stage this week. Other biotech issues were marked lower, with Chromosome dropping 50p to 475p, Corbion International, 11p to 353p, Scotia Holdings 35p to 730p and Coltech 20p to 653p.

Park Foods Group, the food hamper distributor, reacted to Tuesday's belated news of a bid approach with a rise of 11p at 100p. Brokers



KINGFISHER: FIRST SIGN OF PICK-UP AT B&Q

has caused plant closures, layoffs and short-time working. As a result the group has been forced to break off talks about the disposal of its retail division. Beef sales have now recovered 85 per cent. The shares were unchanged at 33p.

Courtaulds, the chemicals group, touched 40p before rebounding to end the day 7p better at 42p on the back of some optimistic remarks to brokers about current trading that accompanied an otherwise gloomy set of figures. Pre-tax profits were 13 per cent lower at £131 million, with the group squeezed by a combination of falling demand and rising raw material costs.

Blue Circle Industries lifted 3p to 364p despite some cautious comments about current trading. Cement volumes at home during the early months of 1996 have fallen, depressed by severe weather conditions. Sir Peter Walters, chairman, said he was confident of market recovery.

Jarvis, the construction group, returned from suspension at 93p after announcing plans to spend £9 million acquiring British Rail's northern infrastructure maintenance division. To help to finance the deal Jarvis is arranging a placing and open offer of 40.54 million shares at 58p, raising £21.7 million. Shares of Jarvis closed 25p dearer at 89p.

A bullish statement about trading conditions for the building industry in the US lifted Williams Holdings 5p to 330p.

GILDED: Investors were beating a retreat in early trading as prices reacted nervously to the late setback for US treasury bonds overnight. The market's composure was soothed later in the session by a big buyer of longer dated issues that pared earlier losses. In the event, the market closed with small losses on the day.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished £10 down at £104.4 as a total of 60,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, treasury 8 per cent 2015 slipped £1.10 at 97.72, while at the shorter end treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks easier at £102.15.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street came under pressure from profit-takers and by midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was 7.76 points lower at 5,728.50.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	Dow Jones	5,728.50 (-7.76)
S&P Composite		672.71 (-0.09)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	21,958.00 (-133.74)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	11,082.79 (-5.96)
Amsterdam	EOE Index	561.31 (-0.33)
Sydney	ASX	2,244.1 (-1.2)
Frankfurt	DAX	2,550.87 (-13.91)
Singapore	SEMI	2,513.02 (-2.86)
Brussels	General	9,401.61 (-50.47)
Paris	CAC-40	2,105.49 (-36.30)
Zurich	SIX Gen	782.40 (-3.70)
London	FT 100	3,764.2 (-25.2)
FT-SE 100		3,764.2 (-25.2)
FT-SE 250		4,512.3 (-16.9)
FT-SE 350		4,006.9 (-11.5)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100		1,687.92 (-8.52)
FT AD-Share		1,892.50 (-10.88)
FT Non Financials		3,416.1 (-10.5)
FT Fixed Interest		12,110.1 (-0.8)
FT Govt Secs		62,291.0 (-0.36)
Bargains		34,579
SEAG Volume		321,031
USM (manus)		221.51 (-0.29)
US\$		1.5103 (-0.0032)
German Mark		2.3237 (-0.0009)
Exchange indices		1,682
Bank of England official close (Horn)		1,214
ESCU		1.8284
ESDR		1.8284
RPI	15.26 Apr (2.4%) Jan 1995-100	
RPI	15.20 Apr (2.5%) Jan 1987-100	

RECENT ISSUES

AIM Trust	101	...
Aberforth Co (100)	103	...
Active Imaging	116	...
Atlantis Japan Corp	587	...
Bioscience Resources	131	...
CA Counts (105)	120	...
Caliform 85 IT	925	...
Cap for Co's VCT (100)	94	...
Emtech	43	...
FNR	39	...
Garmore Select	93	...
Hercules Prop Svcs	60	...
INTECO Eng Inc	101	...
Just Group	44	...
La Senza (150)	155	...
Lumina	256	...
MSB International	242	...
Malden Group	275	...
Milum & Co (274)	341	...
Primer Group	219	...
Railtrack (100)	219	...
Reflex	66	...
Stentor	93	...
Taiwan Inv Tr Co	96	...
Thomas Pons	10	...
Tom Hoskins	53	...
Wangford Med (450)	50	...
Waterfall (45)	50	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Porter Chadburn n/p	6	...
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MAJOR CHANGES

RISSE	100p (+11p)
Park Foods	100p (+11p)
Danby Group	243p (+19p)
Chrysalis	523p (+38p)
Sage Group	458p (+18p)
Bass	788p (+40p)
Osborne & Little	540p (+10p)
FALLS	
Whessoe	134p (-38p)
Chirocure	478p (-30p)
Haworth Med	510p (-28p)
Scotia	730p (-35p)
Liberty	355p (-15p)
Bank Scotland	288p (-11p)
Coltech	653p (-25p)
Corbion	353p (-11p)
Gen Accident	672p (-18p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Bass ambitions

FAT with profits and cash flowing into its coffers, Bass has been lapping up the speculation over its next acquisitive move. The brewing and leisure company has been linked with almost every underperforming brewer, hotel and betting shop in Britain.

But the company is under no pressure to buy anything. Bass produced a very creditable performance from its own operations in the half year. The hotels, soft drinks and managed taverns division all performed strongly but it was in the weaker brewing and general leisure businesses that the profits advance was especially impressive.

Bass wants to see further consolidation in the brewing industry, a not-very-secret code for its ambitions to buy Carlsberg-Teddy, although it is less than certain that the OFT, or Carlsberg, are going to let Bass have its

way. However, Bass still looks capable of achieving further profits growth, albeit slowly, in its brewing division, as it tilts the brand mix towards premium beers and begins to secure footholds in China and the Czech Republic.

Profits slumped 17 per cent in the leisure division although much of the decline took place in the first quarter, when betting was again hit by bad weather. However, betting and bingo operations have now got the measure of the lottery and can begin to fight back. Forthcoming deregulation in the bingo industry and a strong sporting summer should help restore the division to fitness.

Bass shares are trading on a forward multiple of around 16. That is not especially cheap, but with the luxury of a war chest and healthy core businesses, Bass looks a solid bet.

Chrysalis

DEFINED as the final stage of a lepidopterous insect before it becomes a butterfly, Chrysalis is also a media company. However, the City is ignoring both dictionary definition and trading record; the share price of Chrysalis is blowing upwards like a butterfly caught in a warm thermal.

However, for investors to believe that this creature will survive the first frost, they need to rely on something more substantial than hot air. Chrysalis has yet to produce a bottom-line profit or a dividend. Just when profits look imminent, Chrysalis launches a new record label or radio station, such as Heart in London, which is costing the group £1.75 million in promotion costs.

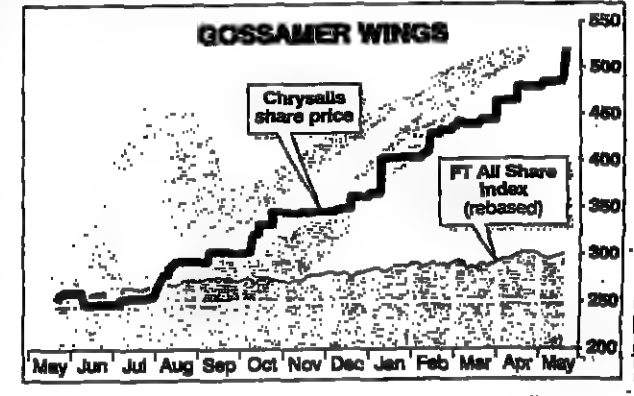
Valuing such a beast is

tricky

the stock market has put a price of £140 million on the company, but forecasts reckon that Chrysalis will chalk up another £4 million loss next year with profits a year out. That assumes the company does not launch another radio station.

Some support comes from the music library but capitalising the royalty in-

come produces a value of £55 million. That puts pressure on radio to generate good profits quickly. The company has plenty of cash to carry on but investors might take a cue from Sir David Puttman, a Chrysalis director, who sold some shares yesterday. After all, a chrysalis is a transient thing destined to be broken up.



Courtaulds

SIPKO HUISMANS, departing chief executive of Courtaulds, leaves behind a legacy mixed as the company's recent profit record. On the credit side, he has single-mindedly seized the opportunity offered by Tencel, a revolutionary fibre with seemingly limitless growth prospects. On the debit side, investors have seen little to show for the investment, the shares having underperformed the FT All-Share index by nearly 50 per cent since 1992.

Courtaulds believes that its recent victory in the Tencel patent dispute with Lenzing of Austria marks a turning point. Meanwhile, raw material prices have returned to normal and the expected pickup in aircraft manufacture is good news for the group's sealants business. Its powder coating and performance films businesses are growing strongly. And demand for Tencel con-

tinues to outstrip growth in capacity.

Yesterday's 13 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £131 million was a creditable performance in the face of widely volatile raw material prices. The challenge for Courtaulds is to turn Tencel from a niche market product into a mass consumer brand. The worry is that, with the exception of powders and the still diminutive Far East business, Courtaulds has few other irons in the fire.

The market expects profits of £160 million this year, a demanding 40 per cent jump from the previous year. Further out, shareholders are betting on Tencel and must hope Mr Huismans is right.

Land Securities

LAND SECURITIES results are always deceptively dull. The property company beat market expectations, but the real interest yesterday was the sight of the largest property group in Britain trying to

position itself in a world that is cruel to property investors.

Land Securities owns too many older office buildings — a product showing mild rental growth — and its high street shops are being squeezed by large shopping centres. The company is re-dressing the balance with development — new hi-tech buildings are still in demand — but a £400 million development programme is still less than 10 per cent of the Land Securities portfolio.

In a low-growth, low-inflation world, the pure office property investor will see little gain because rents will rise slowly, if at all.

The prizes will go to those developers with the right products and those clever investors in higher-yielding industrial properties. However, much of the property market is stuck with offices ten to 20 years old, many of which should be depreciated, if not pulled down.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE				ICE-100 (London 100mt) CRUDE OIL \$/BREL FOB				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
COCOA				WHEAT				BARLEY			
May	1000-1012	Jul	1007-1018	Brnt 1/yrmt	19.60	+1.00		June	120.75	May	113.00
Jun	1008-1018	Aug	1008-1018	Brnt 5 1/2y (Jul)	19.00	+0.60		Jul	120.75	Jun	113.00
Brnt	1009-1018	Oct	1007-1018	Brnt 5 1/2y (Aug)	18.40	+0.40		Aug	115.00	Jul	109.20
Dec	1003-1003	Mar	1006-1003	W Texas Intermid (Aug)	19.30	+0.30		Sep	116.75	Aug	114.50
May	1004-1004	Volume	7734	W Texas Intermid (Aug)	20.20	+0.50		Oct	116.75	Sep	114.50
				PRODUCTS (\$/MT)				VOLUMES			
				Spec CIF NW Europe (gross delivery)				POTATO (1/4)			
								Open			
May	1900-1920	Jun	1815-1815					Jun	Nov	Nov	230.0
Jun	1780-1780	Jul	1780-1780	Premium Light	220 (-)	222 (-)		Jul	Nov	Nov	82.5
Aug	1900-1885	May	1770-1770	Canard 220	170	170		Aug	Nov	Nov	82.5
Oct	1800-1838	Volume	1844	3.5 Fuel Oil	91 (-)	93 (-)		Oct	Nov	Nov	82.5
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Labour relations

ON THE day his wife, who is carrying their second child, was being induced, heartless UBS chemicals analyst Alasdair Nisbet was saying goodbye to Courtaulds's departing chief executive. Courtaulds's fiercest critic grabbed the microphone at the end of the company's presentation to applaud publicly Sipko Huisman's role in championing the development of Tencel, the wonder fibre. Mr Huisman later said: "It's always better to receive praise from opponents than from lackeys."

After 35 years at Courtaulds, Mr Huisman, a motor racing fan and keen sailor, says he is off to make some serious money, working on a major project for a company in the Far East. Meanwhile, the latest addition to the Nisbet household had yet to arrive as we went to press.

Capital idea

SLUSHY Gordon Bonnyman, managing director of Charterhouse Development Capital, is on the receiving end of much flak from his colleagues after naming a road "Diplomat Linda" for his Virginia-born wife's 55th birthday. Bonnyman, 51, refuses to say how much he spent on the apricot citreus, but admits: "A lot of my pals have cut me off — the ones who buy hair dryers and boxes of chocolate." Bonnyman's wife has returned the compliment, arriving home with a savage black Labrador puppy for his birthday next month.

City friend

A TOUCHING moment at Oasie Stores' annual general meeting yesterday was wrecked when the true identity of a mystery speaker was revealed. The man who stood up to announce that the company had "made a lot of friends in the City" and to express his "sincerest thanks to the directors for the marvellous performance of the company" was Bob Cathory, a director of Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, Oasie's broker.

NYNEX



"We are talking portable telephone numbers"

Away day

A MARQUEE in a field in the heart of Dorset is not the obvious place to encounter a Whitehall mandarin. But Sir Terence Burns, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, was in Poundbury this week, visiting the Prince of Wales's housing scheme. Sir Terence joined the prince on a tour of the site before dining with fellow guests, including Lord Cairns, chairman of BAT Industries. While the prince left in a helicopter, Sir Terence took the train home.

Cleaned out

THE executive who has held at bay some of Britain's mightiest bankers, to keep afloat one of the country's biggest leisure combines, was yesterday cut to size by his office cleaner, John Leach, chief executive of Brent Walker. Leach was unable to reach his telephone to explain the company's latest losses of £14.5 million until his office had been dusted and his bins emptied. A chastened Leach said: "I never argue with the cleaners."

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Economic consequences of the 'war' against Europe

The danger is that in debate 'reasonable' may end up regarded as 'treasonable'

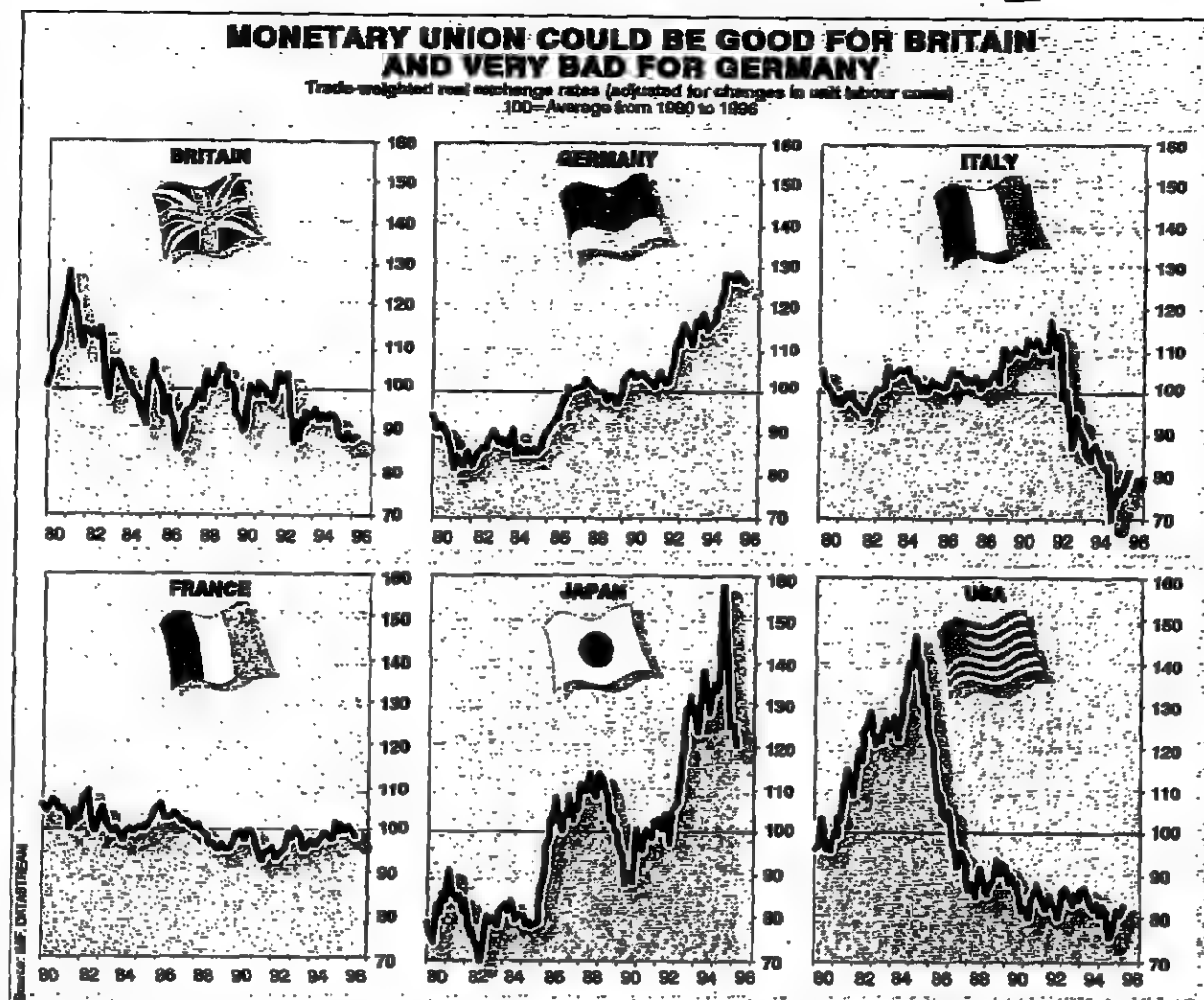
Do you remember that Friday in October, 1990 when John Major put Britain into the ERM? I do very clearly because, as it happened, that was the week I joined *The Times*. I had made only one stipulation before taking the job of Economics Editor: that *The Times* should forthrightly oppose British membership of the ERM. Just as Mr Major's announcement flashed on the news screens, I had sat down at my desk to start writing a long letter, to be published in the following Monday's paper, declaring our opposition to membership of the ERM.

Our opposition to the ERM from the very first day put *The Times* at odds with Britain's entire political and economic establishment — and earned us more than a few private rebukes for unpatriotism from such ERM zealots as Norman Lamont. From that memorable Friday until a certain even more memorable Wednesday two years later, it was virtually impossible to hear a respectable voice raised against the madness of crippling the British economy and making three million people jobless in order to keep the pound at DM2.95.

I indulge in this reminiscence because I found myself in an oddly analogous position on Tuesday, when Mr Major declared war on Europe over bulls' semen. Just as the Prime Minister rose in the Commons to announce his latest "big idea", I had sat down at my desk to begin the original version of this article — which was going to look constructively at the reasons why Britain might, after all, want to join a European monetary union.

For someone who has spent this entire decade opposing Britain's monetary subservience to Europe, this was always going to be a difficult argument to make — and in fact, after writing this article I shall be going on a four-week sabbatical, in part to think about these issues more closely. Nevertheless, I was struck with increasing force in the past few months that the pendulum of public opinion was swinging too far against Europe. Just as it was hard back in 1990 to hear a coherently argued case against Britain joining the ERM, it was becoming difficult for anyone involved in British politics to say anything sensible about the possible advantages of monetary union.

Now, the conspiracy of silence is certain to deepen, as it did after Britain joined the ERM. In October 1990, Mr Major's announcement that Britain's national pride was valued at DM2.95 crushed what little opposition there had been to the ERM. Today, his decision to equate patriotism with tallow and gelatine will suppress what little reasonable discussion there might have



been about Britain's relationship with Europe. When a nation puts itself in a state of war it is all too easy for reasonable to be misprinted as treasonable.

At times like this, questions of historic importance which, by their very nature are often finely balanced, are not settled by the absence of rational debate. Mr Major's plan seems to be to turn xenophobia into a powerful political weapon and call a "khai" election modelled on Lady Thatcher's campaign after the Falklands War.

If Mr Major's strategy succeeds, the Tories will go to the country making promises they could only deliver by taking Britain completely out of the EU — for example, repatriating control over fisheries and agriculture, or fishing Britain out of the jurisdiction of the European Court. Labour will then have a choice.

Either it will fight the election on a clearly pro-European platform designed to make Tory voters face up to the logical consequence of their party's position: the complete withdrawal from the EU now advocated by Norman Lamont and a growing number of honest Eurosceptics. Alternatively, and more probably, Labour will be too intimidated by charges of "treason" to make a positive case for Europe.

very different from the one envisaged in 1990 when the treaty was signed. The German economy looks like being much weaker relative to the rest of Europe than anyone would have imagined at Maastricht.

Meanwhile, Italy and France, along with Britain, could be doing much better than Germany because monetary union could give them the chance to lock in their competitive advantage against Germany for many years. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity that Britain would be unwise to ignore completely, given our long history of losing competitive advantage in general and Germany in particular.

The central point is illustrated in the charts, which show real exchange rates, adjusted for changes in relative labour costs in the big six industrialised countries. In each case, the exchange rates are shown relative to their long run averages over the past 16 years — the higher the line, the less competitive is the economy and the greater the long-term problems faced by the country's manufacturers and international traders. As the charts show, Germany today has an extremely overvalued exchange rate (worse even than Japan's), while the pound (along with the lira and dollar) is about as competitive as it has been since 1980.

These figures imply that Germany would enter a monetary union in 1999 in a relatively very weak position — unless the industry enjoyed a miraculous gain in competitiveness over the next two years. And given the impossibility of devaluing the mark against other European currencies from 1999 onwards, there would be only one way for German industry

to regain some of the competitiveness it had lost since 1992 — the rest of Europe would have to have higher inflation than Germany for many years. That, however, would be impossible if Germany insisted on a highly deflationary policy throughout Europe imposed by the ECB.

The upshot is that Germany, by 1998, may now have an overwhelming national interest in creating a monetary union that would be less deflationary than the monetary and fiscal regime that the Maastricht treaty imposed. Germany could also agree to changes in the institutional structure that would make the new central bank properly accountable and responsive to pressures for job creation and economic growth.

In my view, it would be foolish for Britain to rule out the possibility of locking in a permanent competitive advantage over Germany or joining such a growth-oriented monetary union. After my sabbatical, I shall return to these issues — even if Britain is still at war over bulls' semen.

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OFT unsheaths its claws over contract terms

Sara McConnell on the latest attempts to ensure consumers get a fairer deal

How many people read the small print on the back of a pay and display parking ticket or film receipt when they get the photographs developed? The fingers of one hand could well exceed the number who do, and suppliers of goods and services know it. For years, they have been able to counter consumer complaints by pointing to obscure clauses in terms and conditions printed in minuscule type, absolving themselves from responsibility when things go wrong.

But the Office of Fair Trading has not been idle. New regulations implementing the 1993 European Community Directive on Unfair Contract Terms have given John Bridgeman, the OFT director-general, new powers to prevent suppliers from using unfair contract terms.

Yesterday, the OFT produced its first bulletin on its progress, complete with case studies of 25 public and private sector bodies forced to change their contract terms. They include such household names as Savacentre, Sainsbury and City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council. An estimated 700 complaints about unfair contract terms, mostly from individual consumers

or trading standards officers, have been received since the regulations came into force in this country in July 1995.

The OFT has the power to take legal action as a last resort but, perhaps surprisingly, all 25 companies in the bulletin proved amenable to negotiation and agreed to drop or amend the offending terms. The regulations give the OFT powers to apply to the courts for an injunction to stop suppliers using contract terms it considers unfair. It says: "This will be a last resort, but where it does prove necessary to warn suppliers that proceedings will be started, that warning will invariably be followed through."

Unfortunately, unfairness is not an easy thing to test. The OFT has to take into account such nebulous concepts as "good faith", the relative strength of the bargaining position of consumer and supplier, and whether a contract clause has the potential to be unfair even if no one has actually been caught out by it. In practice, of course, complaints will normally

come from people who have been caught out. What, then, constitutes an unfair contract clause? There are several common types. Entire agreement clauses exclude a consumer from being able to sue a supplier for breach of contract. The placing of an order with the company will be deemed to bind the customer to the following terms and conditions and no oral representations shall bind the company.

Customers often do not see the full terms and conditions until they have signed on the dotted line, so later discover hidden clauses. Exclusion clauses exclude the company from any liability and are, the OFT says, "very common". Some companies use penalty clauses in which one-sided terms penalise customers without imposing similar penalties on the supplier. Variation clauses give suppliers the right to put up prices without allowing customers the right to withdraw without penalty.

However, the regulations are not perfect. Some types of contract are outside the OFT's terms of reference. The OFT cannot investigate contracts until it receives complaints. The reluctance of consumers to read small print in the first place has itself led to many of the unfair clauses escaping unnoticed, which could be a stumbling block in future.

The OFT also has no powers to lean on companies to provide redress for consumers who have suffered through unfair contract terms, leaving them to rely on the courts. The bulletin makes clear there is "still some way to go", particularly in areas like small print. But it warns companies that unreadable small print is "pointless and counterproductive. Illegal print and obscure wording can by themselves make terms unenforceable because the regulations require the consumer to be given an opportunity to examine all the terms before he is bound by them". It concludes with an appeal to commercial sense: "Consumer business can only gain by presenting a better public face and writing contracts more clearly and fairly." This argument may yet sway where all else has failed.

There is still some way to go, particularly with small print

Which healthcare plan offers you more for your money?



Typical cost £12-£20 a month*
PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE
Typically, cover for in-patient hospital care and some associated treatments/services.



From £10.34 a month* and includes:
PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE:
Full cover for all in-patient hospital treatment and cover for some associated services.
PLUS
UP TO \$500 HEALTH CASH A YEAR*
An annually replenished fund to pay towards health treatments including dental, optical and other healthcare expenses.
PLUS
LUMP SUM DISABILITY AND DEATH COVER*
Up to £30,000 for accidental injury and up to £60,000 for accidental death.

* Not available for persons over 60
For more details and the option of immediate cover call us free on 0800 560 560
Road to a Fairer Health Service

PLEASE QUOTE REF 000275

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*Single person aged 24

☒ YES I want to know more about this new personal healthcare plan

Name: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Occupation: _____ Number of children under age 18: _____

Other persons to be covered: _____

Adult Partner (Name): _____ Date of Birth: _____

My wife/husband/partner is aged over 60 and the information you have requested has expired. Please call us on 0800 560 560 for more details.

By post to: Legal & General, FREEPOST MK74, Harlow, Essex, SSG1 1HR.

Ref: _____

BUSINESS LETTERS

English ICA disenfranchising its overseas members

From Mr Jeff Wooller

Sir, I must take issue with your contributor, Robert Bruce, on his feature of May 16, "Reformers face proxy problems".

He says that my motion at the AGM of the English ICA on June 4 "that the Institute members should elect future presidents" has been aimed at the wrong meeting. He states that I should have gone for the special meeting of the same day.

Shareholders can assess the value of the scrip dividend alternative

From Mr Reginald Le Grove

Sir, Democracy does not require a vote on every issue and David Lindsay (Business Letters, May 17) is quite free to please himself whether or not to avail himself of the handy option of stock dividends in a company already authorised by its shareholders to offer them. There is, therefore, no need for shareholders to vote against these schemes. I have recently cancelled a stock divi-

dent mandate, having decided, at 76 years of age, that I no longer need to save so much for my declining years.

A word of warning. Many who opt for stock dividends think that, by their thrift, they will make themselves less likely to be a burden on the state when they need care. They will find the calculation of indexing for RPI on these relatively small additions to a holding a burdensome task if

they sell, say, to purchase an annuity. Capital Gains Tax is iniquitous and raises little revenue in relation to the complexity of the calculations involved in determining it. As a first stage towards its ultimate abolition, surely pensioners could be let off the hook?

Yours faithfully,
JEFF WOOLLER,
English ICA ginger group,
Central Club,
16-22 Great Russell Street,
W.C1.

Train tenders

From Mr G. N. R. Tucker

Sir, The recent report that Wisconsin Central Transportation — the buyer of BR's freight division — will this week place an order worth £250 million with an American company for new freight locomotives without allowing the British locomotive industry to quote is devastating.

In the case in point this may lead if not to the death, certainly to the diminishment of one of our few remaining heavy industries but more alarming is the wider consequences which could arise if other foreign buyers of our utilities follow this trend.

Would it not have been prudent for the Government to have included a clause in the contracts with foreign buyers of UK utilities that supplies to those utilities (representing many millions of pounds) must be tendered for in this country as well as elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD LE GROVE,
9 Manor Gardens,
Saxmundham, Suffolk.

Businesses take tough line on green laws

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS would like to see the Government police environmental law more rigorously, a new study showed yesterday.

The survey shows that many UK companies are already going beyond the requirements of the law on environmental issues, confirming that green policies are moving up the business agenda. In the 1996 UK Business and the Environment Trends survey, 70 per cent of a sample of the Top 1,000 UK companies surveyed by Entec, the environmental consultancy, and the Green Alliance pressure group said that they now attach more importance to environmental issues than they did a year ago.

While companies said that they are primarily concerned about the health and safety of their own employees, other principal concerns include water and air pollution, waste disposal and contaminated land.

The study suggests that external pressures and growing corporate concern about the environment are prompting some companies to take measures that go beyond compliance with existing legislation.

Of those surveyed, 58 per cent said they take actions beyond the requirements of the law, though a "significant minority of 16 per cent" consider it unnecessary to do more than comply with current legislation.

Three-quarters of companies are broadly satisfied that current environmental legislation is not too onerous, and a majority of 56 per cent believe that the current framework of laws and regulations on environmental issues should be policed more rigorously.

While the study concludes that the environment is having an ever greater impact on UK business, it suggests that the business case for investing in

the environment is not yet proven, with the cost of implementing improvement programmes and the lack of awareness of any benefits to business of them cited by companies as significant factors preventing them from taking further action on the issue.

Companies would like new financial incentives from the Government for good environmental practice, with a lower VAT rate for energy-efficient raw materials the most favoured option.

Chris Farman, Entec managing director, said that while it was encouraging to see that the overwhelming majority of UK companies believed it was important to be seen to be green, "business still needs to be persuaded that pro-active management of environmental risks will deliver commercial and competitive advantage."

Julie Hill, Green Alliance director, said that the results of the survey were a "valuable measure of the extent to which the environment is being considered in business decision-making."



Expansion hopes: Richard Williams, left, and Glen Powers, Quadramatic's finance director

EMU forces rationalisation

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

CORPORATE Europe is on the brink of huge restructuring, forced on it by lower rates of real and nominal growth as governments strive to achieve the Maastricht criteria for monetary union.

According to a report by JP Morgan, the US investment bank, low inflation means that firms can no longer meet the rates of growth demanded by shareholders by investing. Other drivers of corporate restructuring are deregulation in Europe, consolidation of global sector factors and the

pressure on companies to become more focused.

Gary Dugan, European strategist at JP Morgan, said corporations are responding by restructuring businesses, cutting costs, and turning to share buybacks as a way of enhancing shareholder value.

He said that, historically, investors demanded rates of growth in excess of 10 per cent, and "until people properly realise the inflationary environment we are in, companies will be taking action to enhance earnings." Given the

low rates of return on investment, companies are using cash to reduce debt or letting it sit on deposit.

In this environment, Mr Dugan said share buybacks are an effective way of pushing the share price higher "and, if the tax regime is right, returning cash to shareholders".

German, Swedish and Swiss authorities are understood to be considering changes to the regulation and taxation of share buybacks to make them more attractive.

Quadramatic sees growth

QUADRAMATIC, the instrumentation and moulded products company, said the current order book is 19 per cent higher than last year.

In the six months to March 31 the company lifted profits to \$6.22 million before tax from \$4.87 million. Earnings rose to 9p a share from 7.6p. The interim dividend is lifted to 3.8p a share from 3.2p, payable July 4.

Richard Williams, chief executive, said the company continued to seek opportunities for further growth through product development and expansion overseas.

Hong Kong business leaders appeal to Major

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S business leaders continued their campaign against Chris Patten, the Governor, yesterday, following up a letter of complaint to John Major with suggestions that it is time the Governor bowed to the inevitable and allowed chamber of commerce representatives to co-operate with China rather than bolster his democratic reforms.

An uneasy standoff between Government House and local tycoons gave way when it emerged that the colony's seven most influential chambers of commerce had written to the Prime Minister, venting their "profound disappointment" at Mr Patten's comments during his recent trip to America. He lobbied for the renewal of China's most-favoured-nation status, which is certainly in the interests of Hong Kong business.

The letter to Mr Major singled out a Newsweek article, headlined "Betraying Hong Kong", as having given the international community "the impression that businesspeople in Hong Kong do not have the territory's best interests at heart."

In the article, Mr Patten complained that business leaders were doing little or nothing to underpin his democratic reforms.

In the 20-line letter to the Prime Minister, "democracy" is not mentioned once. Instead, business leaders were said to have faith in the "one country, two systems" principle of Chinese rule in Hong Kong after 1997.

There has been little love lost between the two sides since Mr Patten returned from Canada last week.

In Bangkok, Donald Tsang, the Hong Kong Government Financial Secretary, steered clear of the crisis altogether and forecast an economic boom on China's takeover. He predicted 7 per cent growth in the colony for the last half of 1997 and early 1998, revising earlier figures of about 5 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

IBM and Telefonica sign on-line pact

IN A DEAL that will put Spain firmly on the global "info-map", IBM and Telefonica, the Spanish state-run telecommunications company, have concluded a collaboration agreement for the Spanish on-line services market. The agreement was signed yesterday by Juan Carlos Usandizaga, the president of IBM Spain, and Candido Velázquez, president of Telefonica. As a result, all IBM personal computers sold in Spain will include software that allows on-line access to Infovia, Telefonica's information network.

In addition, IBM's Global Network (IGN) — with nodes in 850 cities, in more than 100 countries — will be connected to Infovia, allowing users of the Spanish network automatic access to the full range of IGN's services. IBM has also undertaken to promote Infovia to the clients in its portfolio, estimated to number more than 25,000 commercial enterprises worldwide. Telefonica is committed to extending its accord with IBM to telecommunications companies in Argentina, Chile and Peru in which it has a controlling interest.

Whessoe shares slide

SHARES of Whessoe fell 36p to 134p yesterday after the instrumentation and control company cut its interim dividend to 1.1p a share, from 1.5p, in spite of returning to profit in the six months to March 31. Pre-tax profits were £14,000, compared with losses of £2.3 million in the first half of the previous year. Losses per share were reduced to 1p, from 10.4p last time. George Duncan, chairman, said that the markets in which Whessoe operates remain "very competitive".

Placing at Parkland

PARKLAND GROUP is raising £7.5 million through a placing and open offer to diversify into industrial textiles. New shares are being offered at 173p each, against yesterday's price of 190p. Parkland also announced the purchase of Autofil, a supplier of yarns for the automotive industry, for about £900,000. Yesterday Parkland reported profits of £2.54 million (£2.15 million) before tax for the 12 months to March 31. The total dividend is held at 5.5p a share, with a second interim dividend of 3.3p due July 8.

Merchant Retail in red

MERCHANT RETAIL GROUP, the department store and specialty retailer that owns Joplin's and The Perfume Shop, incurred a pre-tax loss of £2.16 million in the year to March 31. This included an exceptional charge of £2.73 million, principally against the sale of Normans, the cash-and-carry business. In the previous 12 months the company earned profits of £1.08 million. Operating profits before exceptional charges rose 12 per cent to £2.63 million. Losses were 3.27p a share (earnings of 1.04p). There is again no dividend.

Protest at CRA meeting

CRA, the Australian mining group, came under attack for its industrial relations record at a fiery annual meeting yesterday kept alive an \$A1.1 billion (£577 million) zinc project opposed by native landowners. CRA, half of a dual-listed company structure with Britain's RTZ Corp, delayed the start of the meeting by an hour after scores of striking CRA miners blocked the entrance to the meeting during a protest. Hundreds of shareholders were abused by angry miners when they eventually entered the building.

ACCOUNTANCY

A little light brings much relief

Underclaiming for expenditure on buildings is rife. It's a world of complexity, says Philip Feibusch

DO THE recent court decisions in *Melluish v BMI* (No 3) and *Others* and *Atwood v Anduff Car Wash* affect you? They will affect you in some way if you want to benefit from the significant tax relief that is available for fixed plant and machinery (eg, lifts, heating), even if you are not a taxpayer.

These cases relate to the entitlement to tax relief for certain capital expenditure and the complex issues raised are important. Commercial depreciation is not allowable for tax purposes but, instead, capital allowances are given at fixed rates. On sale or disposal of the assets an adjustment is made to reflect the actual depreciation.

Expenditure on the structure of a property is not allowable unless it qualifies for Industrial Buildings Allowances. Qualifying structures are defined in the legislation and tax relief is normally given over a 25-year tax life. For other properties, while no relief is available for the structure, tax relief is given for the cost of machinery and plant over a period of years at 25 per cent per annum on a reducing balance basis.

Up to 40 per cent of the cost of an office may qualify in this way. Overall allowances for a property, including those for the fixed plant and machinery,

are often more generous than those available in many other countries. So what is the problem?

In *BMI v Melluish*, tax relief was available for heating units, among other items, installed after July 12, 1984, but not for the same type of units installed before that date. Why was this?

To cut a very long story extremely short, BMI, a tax paying leasing company, paid for the heating units, which were installed in local authority properties, in return for rent to be paid by the authority at levels set to reflect the benefit of the allowances to be claimed by BMI. The units were fixed to the building and the House of Lords found that BMI was not entitled to the allowances as it failed to meet one of the prerequisites of establishing a claim, that is, it failed to show that the machinery and plant belonged to it.

In law, the units had become part of the building to which they were fixed, and therefore belonged to the local authority, in spite of a clause in the lease contract retaining BMI's title. Allowances were confirmed, however, for heating units installed after July 12, 1984. This is because BMI and the local authority were able to take advantage of a change in the legislation effective from that date and make



Philip Feibusch says the law is not written in plain English

an election for BMI to claim the allowances.

In the *Anduff* case a specially designed car wash hall was held not to qualify for capital allowances, even though previously accepted by Special Commissioners. Although the court acknowledged that the wash hall functioned particularly well for the taxpayer's trade, it was still considered by them to be part of the premises in which the busi-

ness was carried on, rather than plant with which the business is carried on. This, despite being unsuitable for virtually any other purpose.

Further, the legislation is not exactly written in plain English, or in fact referenced adequately to itself, and the list of precedent case law underlying what may qualify, dating back to 1878, complicates the situation, as does the necessary anti-tax avoidance

legislation to stop allowances being claimed more than once, or at inflated values, or, as seen earlier, unexpectedly not being available due to a quirk.

How complex is the legislation? A comment made during the parliamentary debate about a note to one of two new tables being introduced in the Finance Act 1994 to "clarify" what may not be claimed, probably says it all. Stephen Dorrell, who was then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told the House: "All ministers rely from time to time on the advice of parliamentary draftsmen. I confess that I have studied the text to note 2 table 2 for some time. I am not sure that it was clear to me precisely what it meant, either before the amendment that I am now moving, or after it."

Capital allowances are important but very few companies maximise their entitlement, not for the want of trying but because the system has become so confusing.

Unless the system is changed may I suggest the following questions are considered when preparing a claim (they may help a little, but definitely do not cover every eventuality). Does the item "belong" to you for tax purposes? Is it qualifying plant or machinery? Is it valued or costed correctly? Has it been claimed and notified correctly and in time? Is or has anyone else been entitled to claim allowances? Is it capital expenditure?

Philip Feibusch is head of the Arthur Andersen capital allowances practice

Uneasy lies the truce that cloaks tax world

TAX can never be fair. As long as one group within society is charged, theoretically by the rest of society, with the task of removing a percentage of everyone's income then there will always be grumbling, at the very least.

The best that can be hoped for is an uneasy truce, a belief that a difficult job is being done with great efficiency and as much fairness as its complexity will allow. The trouble is that it is now generally believed that what had always been a rather bumpy playing field is being turned into an increasingly steep slope towards the Inland Revenue.

Last November the Hardman memorial lecture, given by David Goldberg, QC, put the issues fairly and squarely. Last week the tax faculty of the English ICA held a public debate to extend and air the topic. A decade ago such a debate could have been held round a table in one of the committee rooms. It is a measure of the passions aroused and the feeling that this issue is now crucial to the survival of the traditions of the tax world that the great hall of the institute was packed with a quality audience.

The tax world has changed. What used to be a highly intellectual but relatively intimate world is being pulled asunder. Tax is now big business. And as a consequence the safety valves and buffers that used to prevent what is essentially an adversarial process from becoming nasty and unproductive are less in evidence.

The debate was over the extent and control of Revenue discretion. Goldberg, in his lecture, argued that the Inland Revenue, in changing its culture to that of a combative business, was throwing away the give-and-take that allowed its relationship with tax advisers and their clients to be as fair as possible. Innocent people were automatically being threatened with blunt instruments.

In the debate, Graham Aaronson, QC, the chairman of the Revenue Bar Association, argued that controls over the Revenue had been weakened. Both politicians and the law were to blame. "Ministers kowtow to the Revenue", he argued. And he lambasted the courts for "the mealy-mouthed way they supervise the Revenue's discretion".

John Gribbon, head of the Revenue's compliance division, argued that "the Revenue's discretion is highly controlled". And maybe it is. It is not something you can objectively test. Tim Smith, the MP and chartered accountant who sits on the Public Accounts Committee, argued that there had to be "a trade-off between discretion and fairness", and that the Revenue should be given the benefit of the doubt.

But changes ahead will alter the whole tax scene and greatly increase the number of times that the Revenue feels it has to resort to a blunt instrument to exact justice, and will greatly increase the times when a tax adviser would want guidance in the form of a pre-transaction ruling.

In the first case, self-assessment is going to change everything. As David Frost, the new president of the Institute of Taxation, said in his inaugural address this week, "unless great care is exercised the system itself will inexorably lead us all down the adversarial road to conflict."

The sheer scale of the self-assessment programme makes this almost inevitable. In Frost's view, "the generation by computer of automatic interest charges and penalties sent to taxpayers or to our clients direct will lead to friction between taxpayer and the Inland Revenue, and client and professional adviser." Random and selective audits will do the same. "We have already heard from several sources," he continued, "that inspectors will feel obliged, when starting an audit, to ask every conceivable question on all aspects of the tax return, rather than specific questions on items which give cause for concern. A blunderbuss approach it would seem."

Likewise the need for pre-transaction rulings will mushroom under self-assessment. As the tax committee of the Scots ICA recently put it: "If taxpayers are to be responsible for assessing their own tax bills they need to know with certainty what their liabilities will be."

The Revenue line is that most people wanting a pre-transaction ruling are seeking to test out what they think is a wizard wheeze in the tax-avoidance business. Not so, argued the Scots. "Requests for pre-transaction rulings are the result of complexities of tax law rather than a desire to construct tax-avoidance schemes."

The truth is that in recent years tax has become a high-profile topic. For one thing virtually every political argument in recent years has centred on tax. And as more people take an interest their tax affairs become more complex. More people are needed to sort things out and maintain the peace. This is true on both sides. The tax advisory business is booming. The Revenue needs many more staff to handle the huge increase in work. Sadly the politicians have told them to cut staff and put their faith in justice. The balance in sorting out the justice of any particular case tilts once more. Unless everyone is careful, the uneasy truce will become open warfare.



ROBERT BRUCE

A promise of fun and games

THERE were revolutionary words from David Frost, the new president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, at the institute's annual meeting yesterday.

"Fun," Mr Frost said, "is the first initiative of my presidential year."

Given that his year will include the introduction of the self-assessment system, you can see why people wondered if the new president had a twisted sense of humour.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

But no. He intends to launch a series of charitable events called "Tax Relief". Aided by Tolley Publishing and the Michael Page Group, the intention is for tax practitioners to invent their own charitable events under the "Tax Relief" umbrella. These, said Frost, could range from cricket matches to sponsored cycling.

The setting up of a set of stocks in the courtyard of the Inland Revenue headquarters

might be an equally popular move.

Gain without pain

THE temporary accountants' market is booming. So we should applaud some remarkable timing on the part of James Wheeler, managing director of Hewison-Walker, the leading agency providing temporary accountants. He is now chief executive, having engineered what he says was a

"remarkably painless" management buyout.

Poll paradox

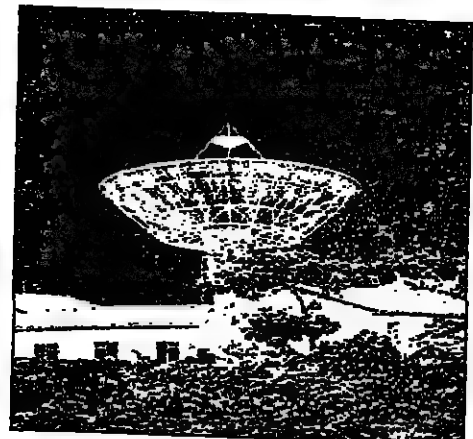
THE taxmen could have done with some counting practice at the English ICA last week. At the tax faculty debate on the Inland Revenue's powers of discretion, a straw poll was taken before and after the debate. Before, 78 voted. And at the end, 111 voted. It is believed to have been the only time a

tax debate has steadily filled a hall, rather than emptying it.

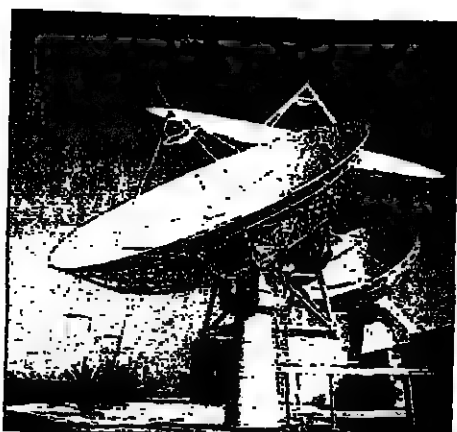
Light years ahead

EXPANSION of Arthur Andersen has brought technological marvels. Its new offices in the Strand have no light switches. Bafflingly, the lights are operated from the telephones. As Arthur Andersen's people, as we all know, work 24-hour days, eight days a week. For them, the problems of dialling home and having all the lights go out is a common one.

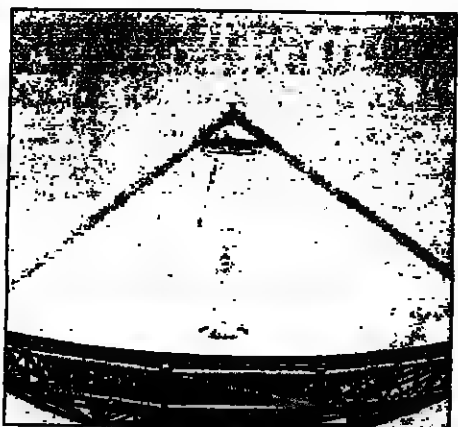
ROBERT BRUCE



ASCENSION



ISLAND



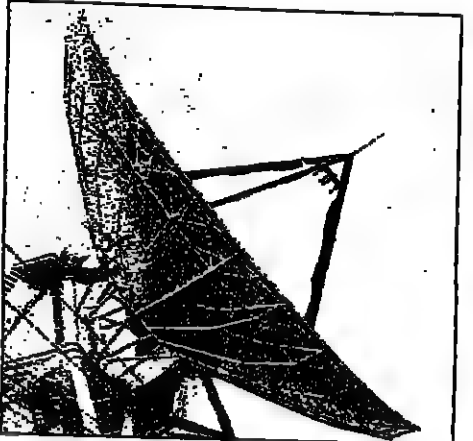
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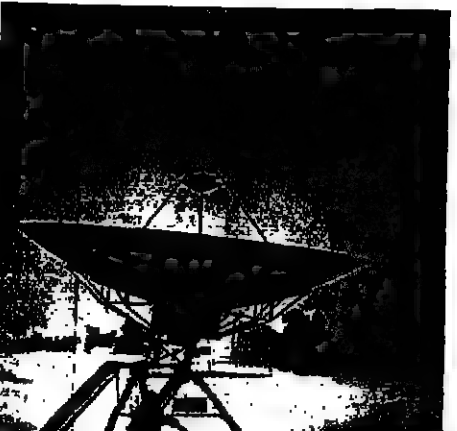
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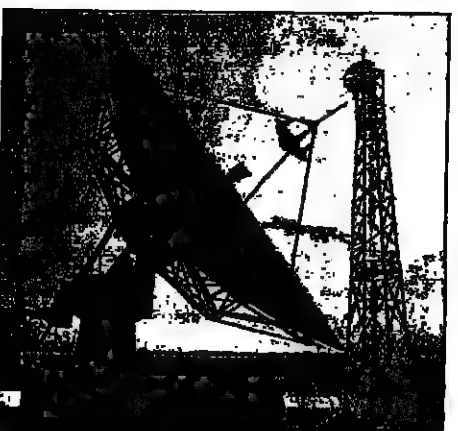
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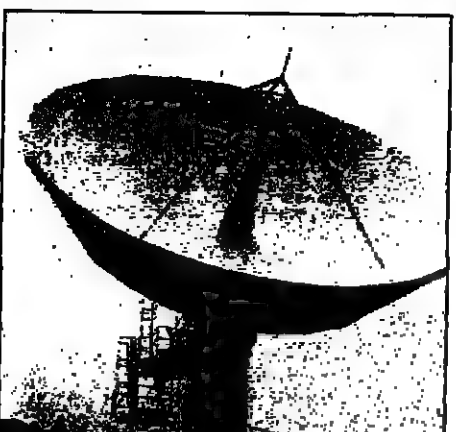
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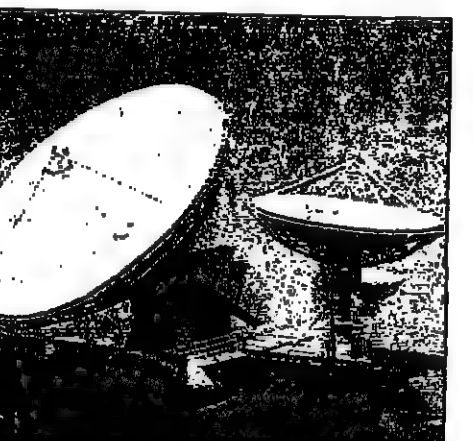
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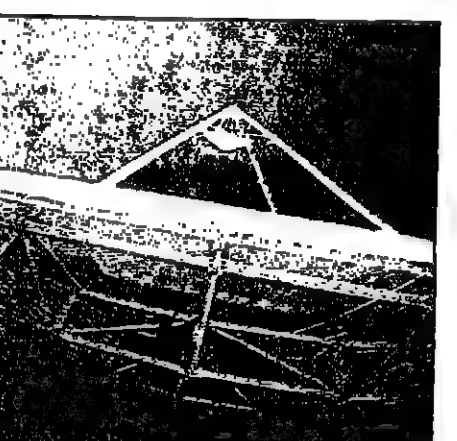
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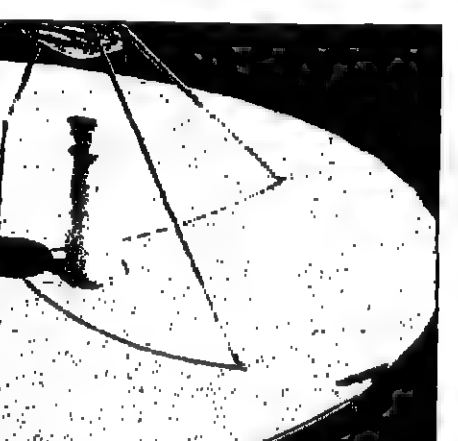
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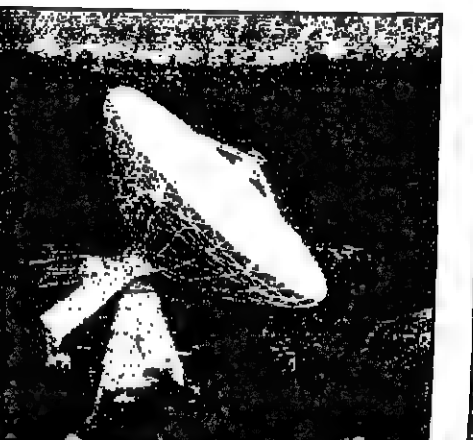
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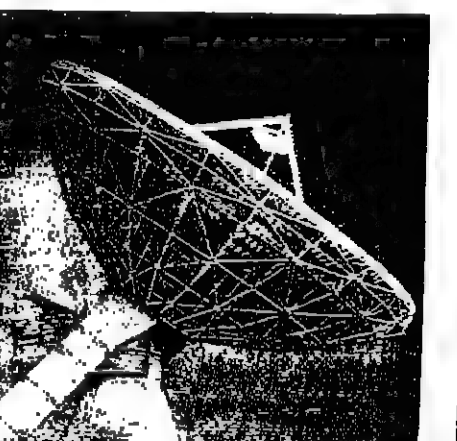
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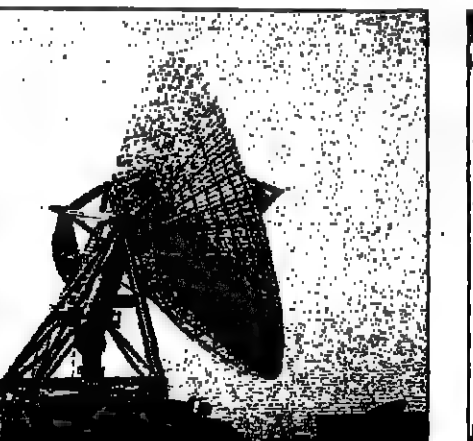
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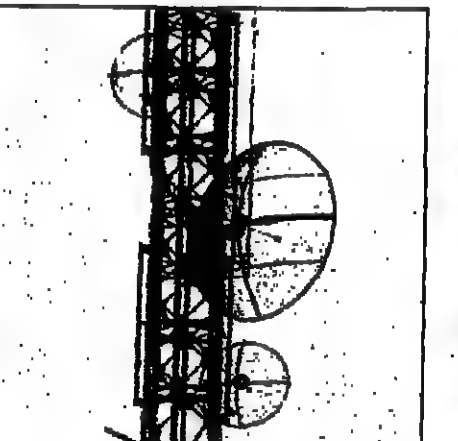
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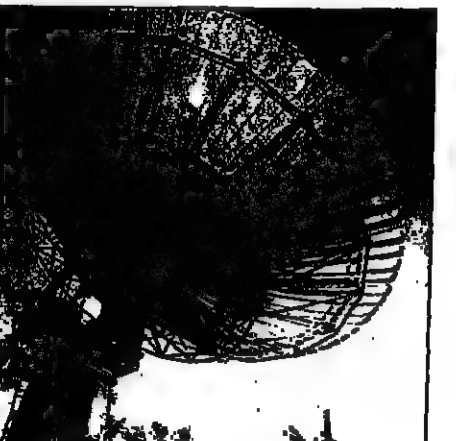
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ISLAND



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■

حکومت الامم



FILM 1
Fresh from winning the top prize at Cannes, Mike Leigh's tender new *Secrets & Lies* hits Britain



FILM 2
... while the only fear expressed in the Richard Gere thriller *Primal Fear* is the fear of being original

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3
A brisk whisk through 30 years of a stormy French marriage in Régis Wargnier's *Une Femme Française*



FILM 4
... and *Angus* is the Hollywood teen movie with at least a bit of brain, even though nothing exciting happens

CINEMA: Geoff Brown is touched by the gentler side of Mike Leigh in the Palme d'Or-winning *Secrets & Lies*

Life is sweet when it's not naked

'Leigh hits the jackpot'

SNAP VERDICT

SECRETS AND LIES
Matt Jones, 23: Mike Leigh is the closest we have to Woody Allen. His observations and characterisations are wonderfully astute. This is his best film since *Life is Sweet*.
Damian Samuels, 23: Leigh has hit the jackpot again. This is a brilliantly timed bitter-sweet comedy drama. His cast, as always, is superb. Brilliantly British.
Michelle Robertson, 22: A wonderful contrast of characters and emotions — this was a delight.
Claire Smith, 22: This had moments of genuine sensitivity and pain, but was about an hour too long.

PRIMAL FEAR
Matt: This is standard mainstream Hollywood; it tries to offer a new take on the trad courtroom formula but fails. Despite an interesting performance from Richard Gere, it is only average.
Damian: An enjoyable courtroom thriller that doesn't really spring any great surprises. Nevertheless Gere puts in a good performance as the smarmy, egotistical and arrogant lawyer.

UNE FEMME FRANÇAISE
Michelle: This lacked development and never reached its full potential, but it will satisfy the fan of suspense, twists and turns.
Claire: The film tails off into mediocrity and the twist at the end falls flat.

MUPPET TREASURE ISLAND
Matt: A film surprisingly lacking in passion, considering the subject-matter. Consequently, the emotional involvement is limited in a drama that somewhat wastes its fine cast.
Damian: It amounts to significantly less than the sum of its parts. The central character is unsympathetic and the drama is not as compelling as it should be.
Michelle: This lacked credibility — dull, predictable and too long.
Claire: The film's several excursions into the realm of melodrama undermined any real feeling it might have engendered.



Timothy Spall and Brenda Blethyn join in the celebrations in a scene from *Secrets & Lies*, in which Mike Leigh moves from the darkness of *Naked* into a softer light

After the bleakness of Mike Leigh's previous film, *Naked*, we were almost afraid of what would follow. Another sour epic of urban misery, of people kicked, punched and abused? In fact, Leigh has pulled back from the brink. Indeed, *Secrets & Lies*, which won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival on Monday night, takes an almost tender look at life.

His characters may scowl, bicker or retreat into silence, but at the end they rejoin the human race. They cry and hug, acknowledging the secrets and lies kept hidden for so long. Principal among them is Cynthia, the role that won Brenda Blethyn the Best Actress award at Cannes. This nervous suburban drudge who fends off her loneliness by calling everyone "darling" or "sweetheart" works in a cardboard box factory and spends her nights bickering with a scowling daughter, Roxanne (Claire Rushbrook).

There is also Maurice, Cynthia's younger brother (Timothy Spall), a modestly flourishing photographer who has climbed a few rungs on the social ladder and not kept in touch. And then there is Marianne Jean-Baptiste's Hortense, the pleasant black optometrist adopted at birth, who feels the need to trace her natural mother. To everyone's surprise, the trail leads to Cynthia.

Class divisions and claustrophobic London lives are Leigh's speciality, and have been for 25 years. Only the tone of his treatment shifts, and *Secrets & Lies*, unusually at times, changes its mood from scene to scene. Comic caricatures erupt suddenly, at some cost to the dramatic flow: the worst offender is the former owner of Spall's business, who staggers into view for a pointless scene that only delays the film's climactic moment, Roxanne's 21st birthday party. Leigh should have got out the scissors.

Compared to the visually striking *Naked*, *Secrets & Lies* looks unusu-

ally plain. Dick Pope's camera sticks close to the characters' faces and sometimes stays still for minutes on end as they battle to find the words and gestures to express, or hide, their feelings. Here again, the scissors could be applied with benefit. Take the first key encounter between Hortense and Cynthia, at a café near Holborn Tube station. With prolonged exposure, Blethyn's performance, pitched close to caricature, grows irritating, while with Hortense audiences are largely fighting in the dark. Who is this character? Who are the people who brought her up? What are her motives? Leigh seems curiously uninterested, and her search for her birth mother loses some emotional resonance as a result.

But enough strong scenes surround the dead spots to make *Secrets & Lies* a significant achievement. Leigh is a master at choreographing scenes of social embarrassment, and he can do so now with a humane touch he never allowed himself before. Spall's performance is particularly touching. We are used to seeing this actor pull

faces and splutter, but he reins himself in, only erupting for a bald line of dialogue that protrudes like a sore thumb. "We're all in pain, why can't we share our pain?" he shrieks near the end. At its best, *Secrets & Lies* lets us share the pain subtly, with grace and humour.

The title *Primal Fear* has no particular bearing on the thriller to which it is attached: it just sounds impressive. Actually, the only fear in evidence is the film-makers' fear of being original. The script, from a novel by William Diehl, piles up the clichés and tortuous twists in a nervous bid to stop us yawning. We start off with a grisly murder. An archbishop in Chicago dies from 78 stab wounds, and an altar boy who pleads innocence while spattered with blood is arrested.

The case is perfect for defence attorney Richard Gere, who thrives on controversy. He also likes peering over his reading glasses, and keeping his silvery hair well-groomed. So in he pitches, digging up enough material about sex

abuse, political corruption and personality disorders to keep Perry Mason busy for years. His hands are also occupied fighting a grudge match with the prosecuting attorney, who happens to be his former lover (a thankless part quite well played by Laura Linney, last seen lost in the jungle of *Congo*).

Gere coasts through his own role on auto-pilot. He looks good, he looks cocky, and that is that. Any serious acting is left to young Edward Norton, a stage talent making a strong debut as the altar boy from Kentucky with plenty of slow rural charm. The film also marks the cinema debut of director Gregory Hoblit, a cop show specialist on television, where his credits include *NYPD Blue*. From such a background you expect jagged, hyper-realistic images: in fact, the movie looks boringly tidy, and smothered in gloss.

Nor are there sharp edges to *Une Femme Française*, a brisk whisk through 30 years of a stormy French marriage. Our companions are Emmanuelle Béart, wayward wife of an army officer, and Daniel

Auteuil, whose continual absences in theatres of war leave plenty of time for Béart to stray. The structure and title suggests some parallel between these marital excursions and France's foreign fortunes in the Second World War and beyond. But Régis Wargnier, the director and co-writer, takes far too shallow an approach for his film to work as a report on the state of the nation.

This is a film of comings and goings, of brief, hectic sex, and border hoppings. As the clock ticks from 1939 on, we spin about from France to Germany to Vietnam to Algeria. The film's itinerary is so crowded that Wargnier must keep hurrying forward; unlike his previous romantic epic, *Indochine*, there is no time for audiences to wallow in scenery or emotions.

High school misfits need not necessarily take the violent path chosen in *Carrie*. Look at *Angus*. The hero, a large lumpy boy played by newcomer Charlie Talbot, is good at science, fair at sport, and bad at social interaction. At school he suffers constant taunts, and finds his underpants pinned to

a flagpole: even his gawky best friend notes that they are almost as big as the flag. Still, his family cherish him, being large themselves; his mother is Kathy Bates, his grandfather George C. Scott.

For all the bullying, *Angus* does not cave in, and we leave the film carrying a clear message: forget pigeon-holes, embrace diversity, and be true to ourselves. Good sentiments all, and *Angus* should be welcomed as a Hollywood teen movie with at least a bit of brain. But nothing very exciting happens, and it is not particularly funny.

Muppet Treasure Island, filmed by Brian Henson at Shepperton Studios, has no message to preach: all it wants to do is shove Kermit, Miss Piggy and the rest into Stevenson's story and let them cavort their heads off. Adults on hand include Tim Curry (Long John Silver), Jennifer Saunders and Billy Connolly. Alongside these expert muggers, Kevin Bishop, a lad from *Grange Hill* on television, looks a little lost as Jim Hawkins; but the story and the Muppet routines carry the film along. A modest success.

VISUAL ART: Isabel Carlisle on the revealing show dedicated to Degas the voracious collector

Part of the fascination of an artist's collection is the window that it gives into that artist's mind. That is why Degas as a collector offers such a fascinating counterpoint to Degas: *Beyond Impressionism* (with which it runs concurrently at the National Gallery).

Conforming to the haut-bourgeois habits of his time, Degas collected art and, as with other French collectors, it

The hero's own heroes

was mainly 19th-century French art. With Degas, however, the collecting developed into a passion that consumed the earnings derived from selling his own works and alarmed his friends with its prodigality. Often the dealers who sold Degas' paintings

would also buy works for his collection — one that must rank alongside Rubens's for its scale and quality. Degas had an unerring ability to pick out what Roger Fry called "the fundamental qualities of the painters at their purest and highest". In

bought more works by the like-minded Cézanne, Manet and Gauguin than by the Impressionists.

Manet's great work *The Execution of Maximilian*, cut up after his death to be sold in pieces, was painstakingly but only partially reassembled by Degas. With the figure of the Emperor lost, the central image is the backs of the firing squad. Informally grouped, shoulders hunched in the act of firing, they are performing a task in the same way that Degas' ballerinas go through their exercises at the bar.

Gauguin's *Woman with a Mango* has the vivid colour contrasts — here indigo against a rich yellow — that we see intensified in Degas' late pastels.

Until the early years of this century Degas considered presenting the more than 500 paintings and drawings and about 5,000 prints in his collection to the State, but he never pursued this further, nor is it clear whether the proposed museum would have included Degas' own work.

The paintings with which he had furnished his life and which must have acted as a confirmation for his art were all sold at the series of auctions after his death in 1917. The National Gallery acquired 13, which are the kernel of this show. Taken as a whole, they combine the traditional and the radically avant-garde, terms which equally well describe Degas himself.

Degas as a Collector, sponsored by Glaxo Wellcome, continues until August 26 in the Sunley Room of the National Gallery (0171-839 3321)

DEGAS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY — DAY TWO

Richard Cork discusses highlights of the exhibition

Unlike most of Degas' other ballet pictures, this unusually large painting contains only one dancer. She stands alone on stage, savouring her audience's enthusiasm. The bouquets presented to her have been laid aside, enabling her to concentrate on the faces beyond the footlights. Her right arm points upwards, both receiving the applause and returning it to her devotees.

But everything about the brushwork in this painting emphasises the brevity of the moment it depicts. The dancer's left arm lacks substance, and the white paper enclosing the bouquets could hardly be more flimsy. Dancer and flowers appear scarcely more solid than the stage scenery behind them, where Degas produces a surprisingly panoramic illusion of a lake. Stretching away to a cold blue mountain on the horizon, this is the most romantic of all his backdrops. The dancer seems about to merge with her surroundings, especially where the petals in her hair become indistinguishable from the flowers on the bank beyond. Darkness is spreading across the landscape, as if to herald the fact that Degas would never again include such elaborate scenery in his ballet pictures. Perhaps that is why the painting looks so elegiac, the work of an artist who is about to cast aside his love of theatrical detail and focus on the dancers alone.



Dancer with bouquets, c.1890-95. Chrysler Museum of Art, Virginia

● Degas: *Beyond Impressionism* is at the National Gallery until Aug 26 (tickets from First Call, 0171-430 0000)
● Tomorrow, Richard Cork discusses *Before the Ballet*, c. 1890-92

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ROXANNE CAN'T HANDLE
HER MOTHER

MARGARET NEVER SPARE
FOR HIS DUTY

CYNTHIA HAS A SHOCK
FOR HER FAMILY

MICHELLE CAN'T TALK TO
HER HUSBAND

MORTIMER HAS NEVER
MET HER MOTHER

SECRETS & LIES

TIMOTHY SPALL, BRENDA BLETHYN, PAVEL LIKIN, MARIANNE JEAN-BAPTISTE, CLARE RUSHBROOK

STARTS
TOMORROW

Lumière

MGM

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ODEON

EDINBURGH
GLASGOW
MILWAUKEE



CHOICE 1

Gemma Craven stars as the rootin'-tootin' Calamity Jane

VENUE: Tonight at Sadler's Wells



CHOICE 2

Sarah Brightman sings Gershwin, Sondheim and Lloyd Webber

VENUE: Tonight at Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3

In Leeds, Paul Shelley takes the title role in *The Hypochondriac*

VENUE: Tonight at West Yorkshire Playhouse

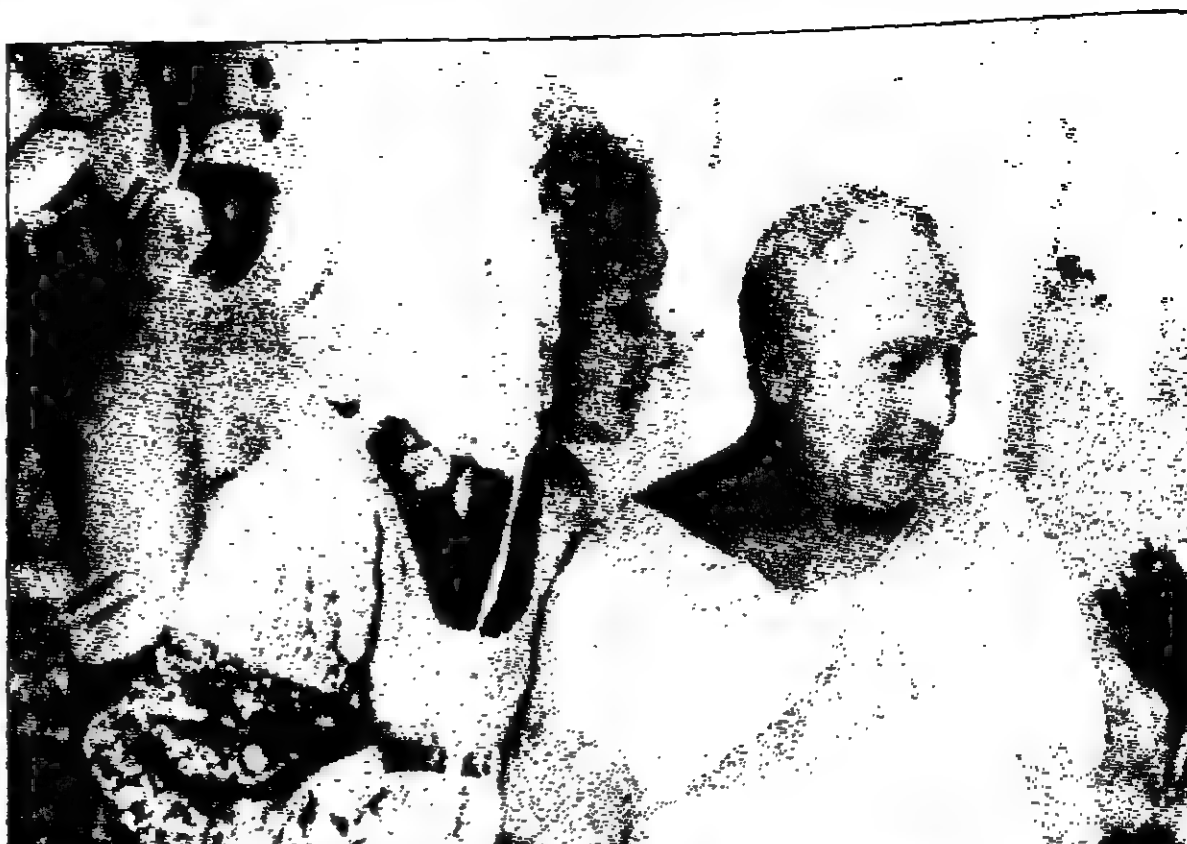


NEW VIDEOS

Fine performances and plenty of period display in Nicholas Hytner's *The Madness of King George*

Time to name names

Out of his crowned head



Queen Charlotte (Helen Mirren) tries to calm the king (Nigel Hawthorne) in *The Madness of King George*

NEW ON VIDEO

THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE

Columbia TriStar, PG, 1994
NICHOLAS HYTNER's film of Alan Bennett's play is now available in a widescreen edition packaged with the screenplay. Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as George III, racked with agonies. Hytner, the original stage director, makes the most of cinema's aptitude for period display and location shooting. Excellent support from Helen Mirren as the devoted Queen Charlotte and Ian Holm as the maverick doctor who, temporarily at least, eases the king's torment.

ALTERED STATES

Warner, R, 1980
PSYCHEDELIC razzmatazz dominates Ken Russell's film, though the story is essentially the sci-fi staple about the scientist who explores the roots of human experience and cannot put himself together again. William Hurt makes his film debut as the human guinea-pig: not a very attractive performance, but then the character itself is unpleasant. Before viewer fatigue kicks in, Russell's visual fireworks ensure some splendidly preposterous moments.

LA HAINE

Tartan, 15, 1995
ELECTRICITY of youth disenfranchised from 28-year-old French director Mathieu Kassovitz, who takes his cameras to the depressing suburbs circling Paris. After a second-generation Arab youth is beaten senseless in police custody, three youths ride to town with a handgun. Not all will return safely. Kassovitz makes every minute count and keeps a tight rein on the characters. The black-and-white

photography has the harshness of documentary and, occasionally, the beauty of conscious art.

THE BASKETBALL DIARIES

First Independent, R, 1995
RISING star Leonardo DiCaprio plunges wholeheartedly into the task of portraying teenage writer-to-be Jim Carroll, prowling Manhattan in the 1960s, scoring, whoring and writing poetic thoughts in a notebook.

DiCaprio avoids melodramatic tricks but never gives us quite enough reason for suffering along with him. The role was originally meant for River Phoenix. A first feature from director Scott Kildert. Available to rent.

SISTER MY SISTER

Arrow, 15, 1994
Kesselman's play about two French provincial maids in the 1930s driven to

murder (the real-life case also inspired Jean Genet's *The Maids*). Joely Richardson and Jodie May are the repressed girls and Julie Walters the house dragon. Nancy Meckler, who directed the London stage show, shows no over-the-top acting for cinema but makes the most of tiny details: ominous looks, dripping tears, specks of dust on the stair bannister.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Lucid fugues; echoes of French operetta; striking sparks from Sibelius

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Joanna MacGregor
Collins Classics 70432-4
AN 18th-century court musician and a Spanish Civil War veteran from Arkansas meet in the shared philosophy of fugue and canon in this latest disc from pianist Joanna MacGregor. Her concise verbal notes provide a lucid commentary through her gently thoughtful, at times implicitly idiosyncratic performance of Bach's great *Art of Fugue*.

That is on the first CD. On the second, of this double album, come the *Three Canons for Ursula* which uncover the complex metaphorical relationships invented by former jazz trumpeter and composer Conlon Nancarrow. Every "voice" speaks with mischievous clarity in the tricky Canon B, considered unplayable until Thomas Ades had a

go at it during last summer's Almeida Festival. MacGregor uses modern multitracking techniques to realise her beloved *Studies for Player Piano* (numbers 3c, 6 and 11) of Nancarrow's series are included here. The multilayered, quirky jazziness of their making predates computer technology and sounds, some might think, a lot more fun.

OPERA

John Higgins

MASSE

Les Noeuds de Jeanette
RIP
VARNEY
Les Meusqueurs de la comédie
Highlights
Berton/Dens/Various
orchestras/conductors
EMI 5 68894-2
(2 CDs, mono)
FRENCH operetta did not just die on the death of Offenbach. It just lost its bite. Robert Planquette's *Rip* was

written for London but had far greater success when reworked for Paris. The tunes pour out and among them are two notable numbers for the baritone in the title part: the Echo Song in Act II, with its shepherd's pipe accompaniment, and Rip's final hymn to youth. Michel Dens takes them in fine sentimental style.

Louis Varney was the son of Offenbach's conductor at the Bouffes-Parisiens and he had no compunction about pilfering from the master. Brissac, the musketeer dressed as a Capuchin to gain access to the convent and its girls, has a drunken aria which is an almost complete lift of the Topsy Song from *Perichole*. Dens again takes it with great aplomb. The plot may resemble Rossini's *Comie Op* but the music is pure Offenbach.

The earliest of the three operettas on the disc, excellently remastered from recordings made in the 1950s, is Victor Masse's *Les Noeuds de Jeanette* (1853). It also has the most durable number, the Nightingale Song, which is

well worth the attention of some of our present-day coloraturas. Liliane Berton, Dens's regular partner, shows just what pleased the petit bourgeois of yesteryear.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

SIBELIUS

Violin Concerto; Karelia Suite; Helsinki Suite
Kunstmusik/Helsinki
Philharmonic Orchestra/
Segerstam
Online ODE 878-3-44
Violin Concerto; Sereenades 1 & 2; Humoresque No 1
Mutter/Staatskapelle
Dresden/Previn
DG 47 895-2-44

THE 20-year-old Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto won first prize in the 1995 Sibelius Violin Competition, with an outstanding performance of the *D Minor Concerto* winning him a special award. He is indeed a phenomenon: not

simply in terms of technical wizardry but also in the maturity of insight he shows in his account of the work. His opening solo (marked *dolce ed espressivo*) is as gentle and expressive as any I have heard, and his security of intonation, stylishly nuanced rhythmic control and natural feel for the idiom make this a commanding performance.

Anne-Sophie Mutter's immensely powerful conception is very different. Her glacial opening solo leads to a reading that is characteristically opulent and robust in tone. Her articulation is savagely incisive, with a particularly ferocious coda to the first movement. Previn's droll, tension-sprung accompaniment is ideal for the task.

A third new recording, by Vadim Repin on Erato, should not be overlooked, but my choice would be between Kuusisto's youthful spontaneity and Mutter's mastery.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

LONDON

CALAMITY JANE Gemma Craven stars as the rootin'-tootin' Calamity Jane in Paul Kershaw's production of the musical of the same name. Sadler's Wells, 7.30pm. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-713 6000)

JULIUS CAESAR Christopher Benjamin plays the colossus, with John Nettles and Julian Glover (Brutus and Cassius) cragging at the head of Peter Hall's production from last year's Stratford season. Barbican, Sat 8pm. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-638 8831)

OTTOMAN ART The British Gallery's first significant exhibition is an exploration of the influence of the Ottoman Empire on the West, from the 16th to the 19th century. The exhibition includes 200 works including calligraphy, ceramics, manuscripts, metalwork, carpets, textiles and architectural models, from the Nasser D. Khalil Collection of Islamic Art. British Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, WC1E 7HP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-637 2389)

BEAST ON THE MOON Richard Kain's award-winning play about two survivors of the 1915 Armenian massacres is being performed by the company. Directed by Irene Brook. BAC, 176 Leventer Hill, Battersea, SW11 1TT. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-222 2222)

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) The RSC's production of Shakespeare's complete works, a pot-pourri of the best of the Bard. Coliseum, Piccadilly Circus, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

ENDGAME Revolving performance by Alan Armstrong and Stephen Dillane in John Lanchester's production of middle-aged couple's last week. DeWolfe Theatre, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish Romantic. Judd Street, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

REMEMBER Edited from the transcripts of the 1945 War Crimes Trial of the Japanese, the play is a powerful and moving account of the horrors of war. Royal National Theatre, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

NEW RELEASES

BLUE IN THE FACE (16) Stones and Kinks about Brooklyn life, indulgent companion piece to *Smile*. Directed by Harvey Keitel. Released by Warner Bros. (0171-437 1234)

KIDS (16) Unravelling portrait of kids in a world of violence. A film by John Dahl. Released by Warner Bros. (0171-437 1234)

MONEY TRAIN (16) Nasty antics in New York's subway system, with Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson. Directed by Joseph Ruben. Released by Warner Bros. (0171-437 1234)

ROUGH MAGIC (16) Magician's assistant Bridget Fonda finds true magic in Mexico. Directed by John Dahl. Released by Warner Bros. (0171-437 1234)

CURRENT

SAND WITNESS (16) Out with the Baywatch star Pamela Anderson Lee

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW Gershwin, Sondheim and Lloyd Webber are just a few of the composers featured in the evening's dazzling array of songs from Sarah Brightman, who is accompanied by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow. Tickets: 10-15. (0141-333 4134)

LEEDS Paul Shelley in the title role of Molloy's *The Hypochondriac*, subtitled *Sick of the Head* in Edward Kemp's new version, directed by Toby Jones. West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds. Tickets: 10-15. (0113-244 2111)

SHEFFIELD A highlight of the Danceworks festival is a performance by Ullmann's *What the Body Does Not Remember*. This innovative work is a brutal confrontation of dance and music by the Belgian choreographer. Theatrical Arts, Sheffield. Tickets: 10-15. (0114-272 2222)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jerome Kingdon's assessment of theatre happening in London

House full, returns only
Stones available
Seeds at all prices

TRIPLETS 280 Kilburn High Road, NW6 0JF. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-226 1000)

STYLIA Strange, romantic comedy by Alan Gurney, with Robert Ellis as a Wall Street broker, Maria Aitken as his wife and Zoe Wamaker, as the stage dog (Sylvia) he finds in Central Park. National Theatre, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

TAP DOGS Dan Perry's latest of dances in working-class Britain to its building site set. High energy stuff. National Theatre, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

TARTUFFE Ian McKellen and Tom Hollander in a hilarious and, at times, moving production of Moliere's last comedy on religious faith. Royal National Theatre, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

CINEMA GUIDE

Gillian Macey's assessment of films in London and elsewhere

THE BIRDCAGE (16) Crises, comedy, romance of La Cage aux Folles, with Robin Williams and Anne Parillaud. Released by Warner Bros. (0171-437 1234)

COPIE (16) Aggressive, aggressive, aggressive. A film by John Dahl. Released by Warner Bros. (0171-437 1234)

EXECUTIVE DECISION (16) Good, very good in a packed action, with Keanu Reeves, Halle Berry, and a cast of other stars.

LONDON

WINDMILL The classic last comedy by Alan Bennett, with Stephen Dillane, Crispin Glaser, and Jack White. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-222 2222)

SOUTHAMPTON The classic last comedy by Alan Bennett, with Stephen Dillane, Crispin Glaser, and Jack White. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-222 2222)

LONDON GALLERIES Barbican, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

ALMAIDA Almeida, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

THE TWELVE 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

WHAT NOT 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

THE BIRDCAGE 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

STYLIA 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-293 1777)

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ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (Rev) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-632 8300)

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 (Rev) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-304 4000)

THEATRES

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SUNSET BOULEVARD 0171 713 6000 (Rev) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-713 6000)

BEST MUSICAL 0171 713 6000 (Rev) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-713 6000)

REDUCED SHAKESPEARE 0171 713 6000 (Rev) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. Tickets: 10-15. (0171-713 6000)

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BEST MUSICAL 0171 713 6000 (Rev) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. Tickets: 10-

حکومت اسلامی



■ VISUAL ART

Thanks to the National Lottery, it's full steam ahead for expansion at the Serpentine Gallery



■ THEATRE

Taking the name of honour in vain: the RSC's staging of Calderón's difficult *The Painter of Dishonour*

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ RADIO

Why do listeners have to work so hard when listening to BBC radio documentaries?



■ TOMORROW

The actor, author and gangsta rapper Ice T makes the case for musical credibility with his latest album

RADIO

Time to name names

FOUR days after last week's column appeared, containing a rebuke to critics of Paul Gambaccini, I was back at the word processor trying to explain for Tuesday's news pages why Gambaccini had been dumped by Radio 3. I am now fielding telephone calls from other BBC presenters begging me not to say a good word about them.

So I won't, for the time being. So the safest territory this week is *The Country Life* (Radio 2, Wednesday), a new series in which it is impossible to praise or criticise anyone because all of those who appear are anonymous.

Nothing daunted, I shall have a go at the producer, who is Keith Slade. He will survive me saying that this is a fascinating series, but the question is, why do listeners have to work so hard when listening to BBC radio documentaries? *The Country Life* is in four parts and this first one mainly concerned work and the effect of the seasons on it.

All the speakers are real people, but we do not learn who they are, we do not even learn when it was that they had the experience described. Unless we have studied dialects, we do not even know where most of them live.

This trend towards anonymous contributors in both radio and television is part of the obsession with "voices". The more, the better. The fewer interruptions, the better. The less narration, the better.

For example, Wednesday's first programme had what all good documentaries have: a single, startling fact that you are never likely to forget. In this case it was that a man pushing a plough was expected to cover an acre a day, and in doing so he walked 11 miles.

Eleven miles? In a day? Pushing a plough? No more flesh was to be put on this superman — we did not discover when he did it or where he did it or how often he did it. The fact that he did was thrust into our minds in a single dimension, which was at least one short of enough.

The Country Life is a highly enlightening series, but I wish I knew the names of its heroes and heroines. There, Slade can sleep soundly tonight. Oh and sorry Paul.

PETER BARNARD

London's Serpentine Gallery has big plans for its lottery handout. Simon Tait reports



How to get a quart into a pint pot: the renovations of the Serpentine Gallery will double the available space, without increasing its size one inch

The tea house gets the cream

There is something very British about creating one of the nation's premier temporary art galleries out of a tea pavilion in the middle of a park: and not a particularly distinguished tea pavilion, either. It has almost all the characteristics associated with tea rooms: unexpected draughts, biting cold in the winter, echoing floors, low ceilings, uncertain and changing glimmerings through skylights. Still, there are pleasant views of rolling lawns beyond the portico columns and the light is uninterrupted by any surrounding buildings.

And it is the light that has made the Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens a showcase for new work, an achievement recognised by the grant of £3 million from the Arts Lottery Fund to renovate and improve it.

The scheme will double the space in the gallery — 805 square metres becoming 1,462 — without increasing its size. The architects, John Miller and Partners, have come up with a design that will create an education centre, a workshop, storage space, a

large new bookshop and new entrance, more office space, new toilets and proper wheelchair access. Exhibition space will be slightly increased, and the entrance switched from the south to the north side. The lawns are to be landscaped by Hal Moggeridge to become sculpture gardens.

"It's taken us five years to get to this point," says Julia Peyton-Jones, the gallery's director. "This has given us time to consider properly what we need to do. It's meant we have become much more aware of the movement in the space and how we can make it much more flexible for both artists and audiences."

There are exceptions, but in general art looks better at the Serpentine than anywhere

else," says the writer and critic David Sylvester. "The renovations will make it better still by keeping rain and burglars out."

The Arts Council got a lease on the pavilion, which was built in 1934, in 1970, intending it to be the little sister to the Hayward Gallery, on the South Bank. The Serpentine is no longer a junior partner. Since 1991 visitors have gone from 180,000 to 368,000 last year, compared with the Hayward's 230,000.

Its recent exhibitions have been consistently newsworthy, from Helen Chadwick's provocative *Effluvia* and Rebecca Horn in 1994, to last year's Mark Wallinger. Man Ray and *The Maybe* of Tilda Swinton and Cornelia Parker.

to the Jean-Michel Basquiat retrospective this spring.

"There's been a change in the way the visual arts are perceived," Peyton-Jones says. "The latest exhibition is written and talked about as much as the latest film."

An educational charity, the Serpentine has always offered free admission. But, although subsidised by the Arts Council and Westminster Council, it still has to raise two-thirds of its £900,000 a year income, much of it from sponsorship.

In 1987 there was a clamorous appeal to save the gallery when the Arts Council decided to release it from direct control. The threat of closure loomed again as a result of the increasing deterioration of the building. The roof leaks, the

heating system does not work properly, increasing numbers of owners have been refusing to lend their works for exhibition, the security system is inadequate, and the wiring is potentially dangerous.

So, long before the National Lottery was anywhere near the statue book, an appeal was launched, with the Princess of Wales as patron. The annual patron-hosted gala dinners became one of the social events of the summer season and, along with the *Here and Now* exhibitions which reviewed the art of the Serpentine's life so far, they raised £250,000 of the £1 million the gallery needed to partner the lottery funding.

The gallery will close in September for a year, to allow the renovations to be completed. "Then people will come and see we're in good shape, and that we give good value for money," Peyton-Jones says. "The challenge now is to get the business community as well as the public to support the art of today."

For all the work, though, the gallery will still lack one thing: not enough space could be found for a tea room.

CHAMBER RECITALS

A notable vote for democracy

Leipzig Quartet
Wigmore Hall

TWO of them left the platform by one door and two by the other, finding each other backstage just in time to return for the applause. It was clearly the Leipzig Quartet's first date at the Wigmore Hall, and a nice visual emblem of this most democratic of quartets.

Their playing is exceptionally close-knit: the leader, Andres Seidel, seems almost embarrassed by his title. In Mozart's D minor Quartet (K421), the first movement became a dense mesh of melodic strands, lively with inner voices, and the finale's four variations found four equally distinctive characters to shape them. Only in certain harmonically defining entries, and in the keening theme of the last movement, did we momentarily miss a more dominant leading voice.

Erstwhile principals of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the players have been together for ten years, but are not yet loudly projected by a big-label record company. We were reminded, though, of their fine continuing series of Schubert discs in their perfor-

mance of the composer's *Quartettssatz*. The compacted intensity of this single movement of an unfinished quartet rang out of the players' rapid, tremulous crescendo, only temporarily relaxed in the subtle shifts of harmony and tempo.

Joy Farrall joined the quartet for Brahms's Clarinet Quintet. Her gentle, warmly co-operative playing is ideally suited to the quartet's own intimate musicianship. In the first movement, the most fluid interplay of motif and figuration co-existed with rigorous rhythmic precision. Even in the second movement's song, Farrall was a reluctant prime mover, preferring to pipe her colleagues in to converse together before leading them, like a will o' the wisp, through the graceful dance steps of the Scherzo and on to end, wistfully, where they had all begun.

HILARY FINCH

French with tone

Nash Ensemble
Queen Elizabeth Hall

JUST as whole generations of composers — including Boulez and Stockhausen — owed their inspiration to Messiaen, so the formative influence on Messiaen and his contemporaries was Debussy. And if the work of Messiaen that most explicitly breaks with Western notions of time is his *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*, then it was clever of the Nash Ensemble (and its artistic consultant Amelia Freedman) to place it at the other end of their programme from Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*.

In Debussy's song poem, time is suspended in the haze of the afternoon sun. The work inevitably sounded less sensuous in David Walter's chamber transcription than in the original, but there was compensation in the refined and revealingly lucid textures: a solo oboe here, a ripple of harp there, and Philippa Davies's languid flute.

As Roger Nichols's programme note for Messiaen's Quartet pointed out, he had a better chance than most to contemplate infinity during his gestation — being an inmate of a German prisoner-of-war

camp at the time. The angel "who announces the end of time" in the second movement ushers in hovering lines on violin and cello (James Clark and Christopher van Kampen), over the most delicate droplets of sound (Ian Brown on the piano). But the most remarkable technical control was shown by the clarinetist Michael Collins, with his barely audible threads of sound in "*Abîme des oiseaux*".

For the bright, hard sonorities of Messiaen's *Oiseaux exotiques*, Yvonne Loriod brought her unparalleled authority to bear, with Daniel Harding and the ensemble providing a suitably rhythmic backdrop. In Maurice Delage's *Quatre poèmes hindous*, soprano Catherine Dubosc's tone could have been a touch more sultry, but her command of the idiom was admirable, both here and in Ravel's *Trois poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé*.

BARRY MILLINGTON

An honour system best left to history

THEATRE

The Painter of Dishonour
Barbican Pit

Not all plays by Calderón are centrally concerned with honour, but revivals of those that are present a problem. Take this one, first seen last year at Stratford, directed by Laurence Boswell, and revived here on a sprung floor — excellent for stamping heels — with sumptuous costumes and a cast that is mainly good.

The young woman who believes her love is drowned, and marries the elderly painter of the title, scrupulously ensures that she only acts in accordance with her honour. This means pretending she was not attracted to her former suitor when she was, and afterwards remaining faithful to her husband. The second is entirely proper, but the first fatally delays her happiness and is the prime cause of everything that goes wrong thereafter.

The drowned man bounces up again and proves to be an intolerable cad, quite the most unsympathetic character to have been seen at the RSC in years. He will not accept that his Serafina is now a married woman, hurls abuse at her, pursues her from Naples to Barcelona for more abuse and ends by abducting her. This exposes the painter to fitters from the populace and he pursues the couple back across the Mediterranean for the inevitable revenge. The abduc-



Victims of respect: Sara Mair-Thomas and John Carlisle

tor happens to be his best friend's son — "Damn honour and its tyranny!" he exclaims — but when the deed is done, the dead man's dad declares that "revenge taken in honour's name cannot offend".

And this is the problem for me. Revenge I can empathise with, no sweat. But all the blather about honour's demands, and there are many more examples in this play, is the froth of a vanished society more concerned with surface than substance. The programme suggests that Calderón was urging an end to its more sinister and famous manifestations, but this means the experience of watching his play today is like being presented with an exhaustively detailed account of cannibalism and then being told it is a bad thing. I know that. Why tell me?

Books have been written about this play, but the translation, by Boswell and David Johnston, uses such plain and ordinary language that we

cannot be made to care for the characters by any marvellous way they say things. John Carlisle (Don Juan, the painter) makes us believe he is speaking poetry only because his voice gives a charge of thought and feeling to his lines. In a different way Sara Mair-Thomas is a convincingly passionate Serafina, for her voice trembles with the pressure of tears beneath it.

The movements throughout the play are revealing, and there is a fine air of bustle about the production, although I see that where Johnston argues for Calderón's belief that a pattern shapes our lives, Boswell goes so far as to contradict the wedding bells and by making the bride (good playing by Sophie Heyman) stride out in silent rage.

The play gripped me in the opening act, loosened its hold in the second, and lost me in the third.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

You can all join in

YMSO/Edwards/Brabbins
Festival Hall

were able to restore it within a year. Bathed in violet light, she smooched her way through Gershwin's *Summer-time* and Jerome Kern's *Long ago and far away*.

The stage was reset for the keyboards, saxophone, electric bass and drums of Django Bates's band, Human Chain. "Here's a lovely old song, sung in a horrible new way!" he cried; and there was *New*

York, New York turned into a fierce cityscape cross-etched by rhythm and metre.

Enter Joanna MacGregor, tiny, silver and black. Her piano part was only intermittently audible in Bates's own *The Loneliness of Being Right*, a compact, devil-may-care frustration of a number.

After MacGregor's *Rhapsody in Blue*, tight, teasing and idiosyncratic, and conducted with spirit by Sian Edwards, there was more avian delight. For Malcolm Arnold's *Toy Symphony*, the YMSO's string octet and pianist were joined by — among others — Garrett, hitting a triangle as if it were an anvil. Bates, subdued on a toy drum, Rafael Payne (Young Musician of the Year) on cymbals, John Harle torturing a toy trumpet, and John Anis turning into a canary. They all joined in Strauss's *Radecky March* and so, of course, did the audience.

HILARY FINCH

There's no need to shout

Bournemouth Sinf/Moldoveanu
Bath Forum

mouth Sinfonietta at the Bath Forum, inspiring one of the most interesting programmes in the festival. Kurt Weill, unmistakably one of Gruber's musical antecedents, was represented by a rare performance of his Second Symphony. Haydn, clearly one of Weill's symphonic models, appropriately opened the concert with the *Drumroll Symphony* (No 103 in E flat).

Mozart's Horn Concerto No 2, K417, demonstrated the accomplishment of the Sinfonietta's principal hornist,

Richard Berry. Under its assistant conductor, Nicolae Moldoveanu, the orchestral playing was generally attractive in sound and tolerably well-ordered in ensemble.

Gruber wrote *Zeitstimmung* for himself to perform at the microphone. Singing, speaking, shouting, whispering, hissing a vocal line covering three octaves or more, he provoked a scarcely repressible urge to ask him to shut up so that we could hear what was going on in the orchestra. He is so brilliant in orchestration, so adept in creating tunes, and so witty in purely musical terms that the *chansonnier* in him is an unnecessary distraction.

GERALD LARNER

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Peter Ackroyd on the architect of the Book of Common Prayer

He followed the King's devices and desires

Thomas Cranmer is nobody's hero. His reputation as a reformer to beat all reformers is only matched by his lugubrious role as a professional wringer of hands. The surviving portraits in that sense seem to suit him: the eyes are timid but obtrusive, while the whole face remains watchful, anxious and restrained. The general opinion has come to be that he was infirm of purpose, with too quiet a conscience, and therefore more fit for a king than for his God. But, in this voluminous and detailed account, Diarmaid MacCulloch sets out to alter this enduring impression by characterising him as a conscientious and able servant whose abiding purpose was "his fierce determination to promote the evangelical reform of the Church".

It was not always so. At university he was a traditionalist in every sense, and in the early period of his life he is described by MacCulloch as "a conservative don" and apparently "a thoroughly traditional cleric". But he was more interested in a career in the world than in the university, and he first comes to notice in the historical records as a supporter of the King's decision to separate himself from Katharine of Aragon and to marry Anne Boleyn.

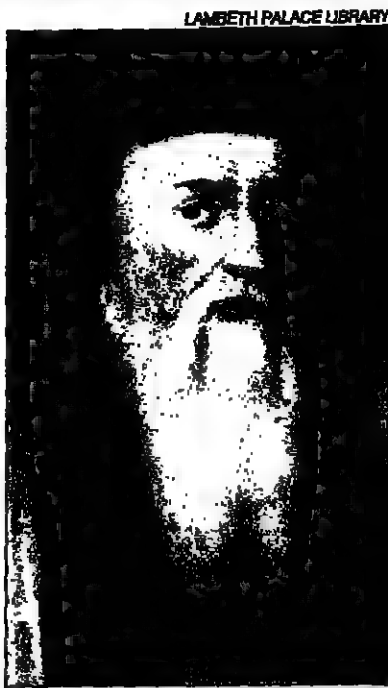
In fact Cranmer's sudden involvement in secular affairs seems to have gone to his head; in one of the few bold moves of his life, he disavowed his clerical celibacy in order to marry the daughter of a Nuremberg brewer. But he learnt quickly enough that rashness did not necessarily pay. Only a few months later, the King decided to promote archdeacon Cranmer to the Archbishopric of Canterbury — no doubt for the sake of services still to come as for those already rendered.

So Cranmer was compelled to keep quiet about his wife (who seems somehow to have been spirited away in the corridors of one of his palaces), equivocated about the nature of papal authority, and eventually took on the pallium. A contemporary satirised him as the priest who always kept his fingers to his mouth; but although silence and stealth were his two commandments, it was clear to everyone that he was the representative in ecclesiastical gear of the Boleyns and that he was, in Diarmaid MacCulloch's words, "a tame Archbishop".

So there is no way in which MacCulloch distorts or hides any evidence relating to his subject: the biography is notably even-handed, and even uses a passage from T. S. Eliot's subject *Prufrock* as an epigraph — "At times, indeed, almost ridiculous." But this is a scholarly book in every sense and, although it is addressed essentially to other scholars who are already familiar with the history of the period, it will have an especial significance for those who have an interest in the wayward and confusing path of the Reformation itself.

MacCulloch's history of that giant

THOMAS CRANMER
By Diarmaid MacCulloch
Yale, £29.95



Cranmer after Henry VIII's death

transition in fact confirms that it was engineered very much in haste, "as a process of ad hoc reactions to situations as they arose, rather than the result of planned strategy" — to which we may add the opinion of historians like Eamon Duffy that the new religious settlement had to be imposed upon a bewildered and otherwise pious nation. In many respects, then, it was a Reformation behind closed doors — some of them belonging to Cranmer himself.

So the Archbishop remained a general factotum, eager to serve those principalities and powers which St Paul commanded him to abjure, and in ordinary secular affairs he became, in MacCulloch's words, "an almost powerless puppet" in the hands of Henry, or Thomas Cromwell, or whoever happened to be temporarily in charge.

He always managed to save his job at times of crisis — until the very end, that is — never losing his head while others were losing theirs, but only by remaining in the shadow of that "self-righteous, God-obsessed royal bully" who happened to be the reigning monarch. At the same time MacCulloch makes a perfectly cogent argument for Cranmer's seriousness as a theologian and, controversialist, and there can be no doubt that he became convinced of the need to expiate the tradition of medieval Christendom. Yet since his

preferred alternative lay in the religious authority of secular rulers, it must be said that he chose his new creed wisely in the light of events. Cranmer's "premise about the divine ordering of society through Christian princes" was not out of place in the court of Henry VIII.

The Coronation of Edward VI (or "King Josiah", as he was known by the faithful) greatly encouraged him. He was the boy's godfather, after all, and MacCulloch suggests that it was at this moment — when he finally crawled out from under the rock of Henry's presence — that Cranmer was able to fashion his ecclesiastical revolution. In a process of "ruthless thoroughness" images were smashed, festivals and rituals abolished, opponents cowed and often imprisoned. There are times when the ecclesiastical manoeuvring comes close to the more melodramatic passages of Trollope, until one remembers that the Fleet, the Marshalsea or the scaffold were often the unhappy end of the internal bickering. In every sense, the stakes were high.

For a while Cranmer succeeded, managing to defeat what MacCulloch calls the traditionalist or conservative forces, and thwarted only by the unhappy accident of the young King's death. Yet there is a case for saying that the Protestant cause was in this period fatally compromised, both by its total reliance upon royal authority and by its entire lack of interest in popular belief. This really was a textbook example of telling people what was good for them, and there have been a number of studies in recent years demonstrating the havoc brought upon the ritualised piety of the English as much as upon their statues and their prayerbooks.

On the accession of Mary, Cranmer was tried for treason, and then actually burned for heresy. It was not an unlikely or uncommon fate, and Cranmer had been playing with fire all his life. That great populist, Cobbett, remarked that "he expired at last amidst those flames which he himself had been the chief cause of kindling".

But if he was not averse to burning heretics when the need arose, it cannot be said that he displayed as much constancy in his last days as some of his victims. He recanted once or twice and then recanted his recantation, giving further credence to the suspicion that he rarely had the courage of his convictions.

Yet if he was one of nature's time-servers, who could really deny him the right to trim and prevaricate in so dangerous an age? He was only human — too human, perhaps, in his inability to see beyond immediate circumstances — in a period when only saints, heroes or fanatics seemed able to act decisively. He died gracefully, if nothing else, although one cannot help but entertain the suspicion that he was simply trying to ingratiate himself with the next ruler of his destiny.



The German axe of State: illustration by Thomas Theodor Heine from the satirical magazine *Simplicissimus*, 1899

Making killing no murder

In the conversation of mankind, murder is one of the great constants. For a week or more after the Dunblane massacre, or during the West and Bulger trials, the nation talked of little else. Almost everybody agreed that these murders were unique in their various kinds of depravity, and that each of them revealed unpalatable truths about our society. In fact, our reactions to these crimes would tell the historian far more about Britain than the murders themselves. Criminal pathology shows only endless variations on themes which have changed little since Cain killed Abel; but if murder has no history, its punishment most certainly does.

Hence it is remarkable that this thousand-page history of execution in Germany is the first serious attempt to trace the evolution of a nation through its response to capital crime. Richard Evans makes no secret of his personal distaste for the death penalty, but the great strength of his book is its detail. In the aftermath of Dunblane, it is salutary to read of the case of Ernst Wagner, a schoolmaster who in 1913 murdered first his wife and four children, then set fire to the houses of his

village neighbours and shot ten of them dead as they emerged. His trial revealed the same paranoid mentality that seems to have characterised Thomas Hamilton, but with a distinctively Wilhelmian German twist: Wagner was a eugenicist who, for all his respectability, thought himself a danger to the race because of his humble origins, and committed his murders partly out of a desire to prevent the lower orders from reproducing. He was saved from the axe by the new science of psychiatry, which was able to resist public opinion in an only partly democratic system.

Wagner lived to welcome the Nazis as his disciples.

Evans describes in gory detail the sensational serial killers of the Weimar Republic, from Fritz Haarmann — the private detective and police informer who turned out to have dispatched about 30 boys by biting their jugular veins while buggering them — to Peter Kürten, the suave "Düsseldorf Vampire", whose case aroused such popular fury that the death penalty, which had been in abeyance for several years, was reintroduced for him in 1931.

Under the Third Reich, it was to be transformed into an instrument of extermination. Here again, the echoes of present-day controversies make for uncomfortable reading: Hitler himself, it appears, was a compulsive consumer of crime stories in the press; but when he came across a sentence too "lenient" for the crime he did not merely telephone a call to ensure that the criminal would be unofficially executed.

From 1942 onwards, judges who passed custodial sentences for the ever-lengthening list of crimes that Hitler considered capital were simply sacked. Thus the courts became accomplices in the Nazi bloodbath, passing 16,500 death sentences in 12 years. So discredited did the

death penalty become that the postwar Federal Republic abolished it, though the Communists continued to execute criminals in East Germany until the eve of its collapse.

As a thorough, empirical historian, Evans cannot square his evidence with the overarching theories of punishment advanced by Michel Foucault, Norbert Elias and others. But he subscribes to at least one theory himself: that capital punishment sustains and is sustained by a "culture of retribution", which degrades the State and legitimises violence at all levels of society.

Germany's nemesis under the Nazis seems to support this. But there is no evidence that the abolition of capital punishment in itself ameliorates the culture of retribution, let alone reduces criminal violence. Being "soft on crime" may destabilise a modern State, which is defined by its monopoly of violence; we still think of the Weimar Republic as "decadent", because the Nazi propaganda which depicted it as such was so effective. The desire for retribution may be avastive, but it is rarely kept in check without ritual.

Daniel Johnson

RITUALS OF
RETRIBUTION
Capital
Punishment
in Germany,
1600-1987
By Richard J. Evans
OUP, £55

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Lucky to survive

Christopher Hawtree

GOING MAD IN HOLLYWOOD
By David Sherwin
André Deutsch, £17.99

Terrifying as it is to contemplate this turbulence, one must be thankful for it. A more orderly man would not have been up to writing *If... and O, Lucky Man!* as well as the masterly, shamefully neglected *Britannia Hospital*. The first of these appeared a year after Joe Orton's death, and Sherwin, himself so often holed up in one room, is the nearest that we have had to that blistering spirit. If those movies are generally regarded as Lindsay Anderson's, *Going*



Sherwin, Anderson and Bo Widerberg: Cannes, 1969

Mad in Hollywood gives a continual insight into the dynamics of a partnership which saw each man at his outlandish best (with a shared taste in off-beat books).

Sherwin's eye for the quotidian is acute. It's well known that Jill Bennett left a fortune to Battersea Dogs' Home but not that this will was a teenage joke and, there

being no other, it had to stand. During the LA riots, an archbishop is interviewed on television. "What are you doing about this catastrophe, Monsignor?" "I've faxed the Pope." "And what has the Pope done?" "He's faxed me a prayer." This is only a mile less surreal than the chaplain in a drawer in *If...*

Confession of his manic energy led the DHSS to deny him income support. If only such people were as enlightened as the newspaper Editor Stewart Steven (then at *The Mail on Sunday*) who, on hearing of this, gave him a retainer of £100 a week and "£1 a word if you write anything". Well, here — and rather cheaper — is a record both of a time when anything seemed possible (but probably wasn't) and one when all looked hopeless (but might not be). Sherwin found the complete diary "an out-of-control monster" but this version leaves one avid for more.

Diseases desperate grown

Roy Porter

PLAGUES
Their Origin, History and Future
By Christopher Willis
HarperCollins, £20

sands of years exclusive to the Indian subcontinent, cholera then circled the globe in six terrible pandemics in the 19th century, thanks to communications revolutions. Who can miss the parallel with Aids, probably long confined in African equatorial forests?

Willis then moves to India itself. Assailed by the stench and sewage of Madras, he goes in search of the cause of the devastating 1994 plague outbreak. He then resumes the cholera trail, but in time not in space, going back in history to 1854 when John Snow tracked an eruption of deaths in Soho to a contaminated water-pump. Snow got the parish officers to remove the handle, and the outbreak ended. Turning to typhoid allows Willis to work in the remarkable tale of his grand-

parents under the Raj, and then malaria elicits the medical history of an uncle in the Burma jungle during the Second World War.

In depicting the precarious relations between man, disease and environment, Willis strikes a responsible balance. He rightly emphasises that we live in a world of epidemiological dangers of our own creation — environmental blight, overpopulation, pharmaceutical myopia; diseases are unpredictable, evolution

works in mysterious ways, and modern medicine is all too often a stopgap. Band-aid affair.

Yet he avoids "killer viruses" panic. Microbes themselves, he points out, often find it hard to survive, and excess "success" — the creation of plagues — can be, from the disease's point of view, quite self-destructive. Nor is he blind to improvement where it is occurring — better food supply in modern India, for instance, is helping the war against disease.

Overall there is a fine intellectual command in Willis's evocation of the complex chains and cycles of nature, and a mature sense of the paradoxical role of man as both steward and wrecker of the micro-ecological system. Willis is to be respected for

avoiding easy answers: he has no dead-cert predictions about the likely occurrence of "hot zone" viruses.

Willis writes confidently with a gift for memorable phrases — plague fleas are visualised as "mobile hypodermic needles". Combining history, travelogue, scientific exposition, autobiography and commentary on world eco-politics, Willis provides a sure guide to the medical problems and promises of the end of the second millennium, and enlarges our grasp of the evolution of disease.

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Peter Stoithard wonders why we do not know of more women poets in the ancient world, and what their absence might reveal

Hurrahs for the heroines of old

There are no known women novelists from ancient Greece. There are some women poets but few of them are known. There are no love duets in classical Greek theatre. As Octavio Paz writes in his essay, *The Prehistory of Love*, it is easy to comb the anthologies and find "lovers in their different moods — desire, sensual pleasure, disillusionment, jealousy, ephemeral happiness". It is hard to find the matching view of a lover's partner, "the sentiments and emotions of the Other".

For many centuries of scholarship this was not a problem. Classicists were predominantly men steeped in a Platonic philosophy that made love a solitary search for perfection, not a human relationship. Only in 1975, with the publication of Sarah Pomeroy's *Goddesses, Whores, Wives and Slaves*, were we led to think about how the female Other might have felt about the erotic poetry, violent tragedy and bawdy stories that swirled about her.

Since then a feminist industry has devoted itself to such issues.

THE DOUBLE FLAME
Essays on Love and Eroticism
By Octavio Paz
Harvill, £14.99
CLASSICAL WOMEN POETS
Translated by Josephine Balmer
Bloodaxe, £7.95

Why have so few words from a female point of view survived from ancient times? Were they not written? Or were they not thought worth preserving? When classical culture was at its 5th-century Athenian height, why was work by women even more than usually scarce? As for what has survived, is it any good?

For Octavio Paz, writing with the confidence of a Nobel prize-winning poet, one answer is clear:

the Athens of Plato and Pericles, politically powerful, socially conservative and self-consciously artistic, was no place for a woman who wanted to write. He argues that literature which exposed the female side of sexual relationships had to wait another 100 years for the more open, cosmopolitan and depoliticised culture of Alexandria.

To make his point he chooses a piece by Theocritus, commonly known as the father of pastoral poetry but who, in this context, is best seen as an early country-and-western star, crooning songs of love and abandonment. Theocritus does indeed show a mastery of understanding of his city-girl heroine, Simaetha, as her love for a smooth-bodied, smooth-talking athlete moves through fire and ice into hate. Paz might just as easily have chosen the third book of Apollonius's *Argonautica* which also blazes new trails in the



Sappho: the last of her line?

description of Medea's feelings — somewhere between sexual ecstasy and a severe headache — on first meeting the handsome hero, Jason. Both of these writers, of course, are men.

Could he have found a woman writer to make his point? Josephine Balmer has recently

brought together in a slim paperback the work of all the female poets of the classical world. Using this as a convenient guide, the absence of women rivals to the Athenian geniuses is clear enough. A certain Charizomena is the only known woman who may have written verse in 5th-century Athens: none of it has survived. Some women's work did travel. Praxilla, who lived on the Gulf of Corinth, was paid the compliment (possibly barbed) of a parody by the Athenian high comedian Aristophanes. In place of her "scorpion" who "waits under every stone" he inserts "a politician". But for later writers she became an unambiguous figure of fun: "sillier than Praxilla" became a proverb.

Corinna, who lived further north in Tanagra, has left behind enough work to prove herself a skilled poet. She writes of daughters and dreams; she challenges

the chariot-racing subject matter of Pindar by hymning glories closer to home, "hurrahs in our heroines". She is said to have defeated Pindar (a man of high and lengthy style) in a poetry competition; but cynics said that was only because of her good looks. In another jibe that was to become familiar to successors, Telesilla of Argos was recognised only as a "woman's writer".

By the 3rd century B.C. three unequivocally serious women poets were at work: Nossis at Locri in southern Italy, Erinna at Rhodes and Anyte in Arcadia. Nossis proudly takes the side of prostitutes. Erinna writes of the fatal move of a childhood girlfriend to a man's bed, the moment when "that thief desire stole all memory away". Anyte's epitaphs for animals, not only rise far above cuteness but set a pattern for generations of male and female followers.

But those initial questions remain. If we possessed everything written by these writers, not merely the pieces that were judged interesting or acceptable by later critics, schoolteachers and Christian scholars, would we be able to know more about how Paz's ancient Other felt?

Balmer's book begins, as does Paz's essay, with the one poem by an ancient Greek woman that, by itself, makes this subject both so magnificent and so maddening. Sappho lived around 600 B.C. 300 years before Theocritus. Her poem which describes the physical desperation of seeing a loved one with a rival man is one of the most intense in all Western literature.

Perhaps the conditions in which a woman could develop the ideas in this tiny fragment never recurred. But almost every year now, with the help of new archaeological techniques, new papyri are pulled from the sites of antiquity. Perhaps the poet who will make Paz revise his essay is just a spade of sand away.

The author is Editor of The Times

Grief emerges into light

In the initial months of euphoria which followed the IRA's ceasefire there was much literary speculation in Ireland about how Northern Irish writers would reflect the new flood of optimism and, as in some political circles, much glib talk of drawing a line under the past.

Deirdre Madden's latest novel wisely asserts the need to build a better future through the painful but vital process of confronting the past, of seeking to come to terms with what was done to each of us and what was done to others in our name. One of her characters envisages a future memorial constructed in the form of a room, three of its walls covered by neat rows of names of the dead — "a place which afforded dignity to memory, where you could bring your anger, as well as your grief".

The novel focuses on the women of the Quinn family, their relationships with each other and their individual searches to find an outlet for the anger and grief which taint their lives after the sectarian murder of a husband and father. Cate, one of the daughters and a successful journalist

David Park

ONE BY ONE IN THE DARKNESS
By Deirdre Madden
Faber, £14.99

in London, returns to the rural family home bringing a secret and shaken self-confidence: this sudden act of terror leaves her feeling like a tightrope walker teetering over an abyss. Her sister, Helen, a solicitor who has sublimated her life to an altruistic pursuit of legal aid cases is increasingly torn by self-doubt and the moral ambiguities of her work. The youngest daughter Sally finds her life narrowed into an emotional support for her mother.

Madden, whose previous work has been rewarded with both the Rooney Prize and a Somerset Maugham Prize, constructs her story round a week in the life of the family, interspersing it with memories of the girls' childhood which coincides with the beginning of the Troubles. At times this part of the story runs the risk of becoming a potted history of the Troubles, a bit like being or one of the new guided bus tours now visiting Belfast's best-known trouble spots. The novel's strength, however, is to be found in the sensitive understanding and portrayal of the women's grief as each struggles to construct meaning from the irreparably meaningless.

Emily, the mother, becomes obsessed with growing flowers because "it made her able to bear time, because it hooked her into the circle of the seasons, and time would otherwise have been a horrible straight line, a straight, merciless journey at speed towards death." Her daughters seek their own selves but all of them discover that there are no defenses against memory.

The novel ends with no easy resolution and yet perhaps that itself speaks of hope. As the youngest daughter says, "In this society it's the people who aren't confused, it's the people who know exactly what they think and feel about things who are the most dangerous."

The city that doesn't love a wall

West Berlin was the Great Metaphor of the Cold War: outpost of democracy, oasis of freedom, beacon of hope, fuse of war. For 45 years, Berlin was a powder-keg, loophole and flashpoint. And everything anyone needed to know about the Cold War could be summed up in a glance at the jagged, concrete wall that ran through the centre of the town like an ugly gash on the face of Europe. The wall divided not only the city, but the nation and the Continent.

The four victorious powers had agreed to the joint administration of Berlin well before Russian forces captured and pillaged the city in the spring of 1945. The Americans, British and French approached the postwar occupation as a transition phase leading to an overall settlement for Germany as a whole. For the Soviets, however, the juicy fruit of military victory was the subjugation and division of Germany and they weren't about to give it up. What the Western powers thought temporary, the Kremlin made permanent, and this difference of perception and interest underlay the tensions that afflicted Berlin for almost half a century.

The Russians obstructed every effort to return Germany to normalcy. So the Allies proceeded unilaterally to rebuild their zones of the country. The creation of the mark, the election of a government in Bonn, and membership in the EEC and eventually Nato each brought greater prosperity and stability to West Germany.

Berlin, however, remained a frozen wartime anachronism of four-power rights and four-power garrisons. And so tenuous was the Western position there that the slightest squeeze of the Soviet hand could bring both sides to the brink of war. When the wall went up in August 1961, it came as a kind of relief for Western leaders. The Allies had expected worse — perhaps a showdown over

quadrupartite rights — but the Russians maintained the *de jure* illusion of a *de facto* reality, and Berlin continued in its uneasy, schizophrenic condition.

Ann Tusa relates the saga of Berlin and its terrible wall with a vivacity which eludes most scholars who have tried to untangle the city's postwar history. She takes us along the Berlin roller coaster from the airlift which broke the Soviet blockade in 1948 through all the ups and downs of failed negotiations in the years that followed. Her thumbnail sketches of political leaders are superb, especially the figures of the 1950s when the Cold War was chilliest. Nikita Khrushchev, the peasant bully from Ukraine, issued ominous ultimatums and nuclear threats as if they were so much casual chit-chat. De Gaulle was the stern, disdainful, tough-minded statesman who fixed his

grand European design on French accommodation with the new Germany. Pig-headed and iron-willed, Konrad Adenauer was contemptuous of Eastern Germans (whom he called "Chineses") and determined that the West hold a firm line. Eisenhower seemed clear-eyed if not visionary and frustrated by Allied bickering. And Harold Macmillan comes off as a kind of diplomatic Micawber, always willing to negotiate, always ready to compromise, always hoping something will turn up and always mistrusted by the others.

John Kennedy's grasp of Berlin's complexities was incomplete ("Ich bin ein Berliner," Kennedy's inspired declaration in front of the Wall in 1963, is properly translated "I am a doughnut"); Willy Brandt cautiously prised open Eastern channels with his Small Steps Ostpolitik; and Walter Ulbricht and Erich Honecker gave flawless performances as compeopable quislings.

The real story of Berlin, however, is inevitably the story of Berliners: those stranded on the western side of the wall who were stoic, defiant and willing to accept any change in the "Berlin weather"; those imprisoned on the eastern side who endured impoverishment and captivity; and those thousands of refugees who escaped across the border and whose courage ultimately brought down the wall.

Tusa sweeps through the tedium of diplomatic notes and the arcana of quadripartite administration without losing the essential drama of



At last a change in the "Berlin weather": East and West Germans demonstrate as the wall is breached at the Brandenburg Gate, December 1989

the plot. She writes with entertaining verve. Describing a Foreign Office official's headlong descent into slippery-slope logic, she says: "Not for Sir Anthony a slow traverse; he closed his skis and schussed straight down."

This is a fine book, though it is perhaps a chapter short. The complex political manoeuvrings that ended the wartime status of Berlin in 1990, secured the unification of Germany and ended the Cold War deserve fuller treatment.

The characters then were just as intriguing and the events just as compelling. But perhaps the records are not sufficiently open yet, and for all the colour of Ann Tusa's style, her research is both meticulous and confident. Surely she is schussing into a second volume right now.

Raymond Seitz is Vice-Chairman of Lehmann Brothers International, and was American Ambassador to the United Kingdom 1991-94

An awful warmth about their hearts

Rachel Cusk

HEAT WAVE
By Penelope Lively
Viking, £16



Lively: insistent darkness

effect on the rural landscape that is the novel's setting is nicely observed, but the madman and menace of unnatural sun remain outside the viscera of Lively's narrative.

This omission would occasionally seem deliberate. *Heat Wave* is a novel remarkable for its absence of flesh and physical sensation, for the glint of steel at its heart. The more its characters fail to sweat, the more apparent it becomes that their conflicts are embedded deep in some dark, cold shaft of misery resistant to weather.

Lively's theme is sexual jealousy and infidelity. Her formulation for it is not new, but the freight of accusation — unreconstructed, adamant — her conclusions carry a formidable. Using a group of couples Lively smuggles in a story of old-fashioned abuses, of the sort now more often crowded out of the confessional.

Pauline, a middle-aged copy editor long since divorced from her philandering academic husband Harry, spends a summer in the country with her daughter Teresa, her daughter's husband Maurice, and their small son. Pauline is deeply suspicious of Maurice, a successful writer and erstwhile friend. Teresa is infatuated with him, ignorant of the long-ago betrayals through whose bitter tracery her mother now sees the world. Maurice himself is blithe and egotistical, self-absorbed, fond of approval, the quintessential man-child.

This faded group shares a remote pair of adjoining cottages, where Maurice is writing a high-profile book about tourism and Pauline is editing a strange and fantastical novel about romantic love, while Teresa enacts an idyll of white bliss in the garden. Around them satellites gather and revolve: Maurice's editor James and his predatory girlfriend, Carol; Pauline's old friend, Hugh, who has spent most of his married life caring for his mentally unstable wife; Chris Rogers, Pauline's author, whose wife has just left him and their children, and Harry, remarried in California, threatening to visit.

Gazing from the window in front of her desk, Pauline watches the painful pageant of her past unfold, a picture into which Maurice unwittingly slides, thinking himself unobserved until he fits his contours exactly. Maurice has idly embarked on an affair with the less-than-exalted Carol, a development unknown to Teresa or James but murderously observed by the still raw-nerved Pauline.

Her increasingly charged study of Maurice's manoeu-

vres accrues a kind of historic wrath. Different kinds of love. Lively suggests, inevitably, conflict in which case mothers must and do love their children more than their husbands, for the one kind of love enriches and continues while the other saps and eviscerates. The wronged wife is pusillanimous, the wronged mother titan.

At a loss, Pauline tells Teresa the story of Chris Rogers's novel, in which a beautiful princess dies with grief at the treachery of her prince, but books, as Pauline knows, cannot obviate life. In any case there are few alternatives advocated here to the enfeebling, blinding,ague of infatuation: certainly not the convenient love of James and Carol, nor the self-sacrificing devotion of Hugh.

TO RELIEVE the gloom, Lively permits the cheering return of Chris Rogers's wife, but this is merely a brief flicker in a more insistent darkness, through which the novel moves unsparingly to its conclusions, these being that you can only trust your friends, and that women are better off on their own. It goes almost without saying that Penelope Lively's writing is as clear and poised as ever, but here it gives shape to something more sinister, more disturbing, more exact in its aim than even her admirers might have expected.

Win tickets for Euro 96



TODAY, The Times offers you the chance to win tickets to the biggest sporting event in Britain for 30 years — the Euro 96 soccer championships.

We have six pairs of tickets from the FA to give away — a pair for each of England's matches at Wembley against Switzerland, Scotland and Holland as well as a pair of tickets for the

Wembley quarter-final, semi-final and final matches. It is your chance to see our boys in action as they take on Europe's best.

HOW TO ENTER

Collect 10 differently numbered tokens from the 12 which will be printed in The Times until Saturday May 25. Token 10 appears below. Attach the tokens to the official entry form which was printed with a competition question and address last Saturday. Another entry form will appear this Saturday. The closing date for receipt of entries is first post Wednesday May 29.

The winners will be the first six names selected at random from all correct entries received with 10 tokens attached. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

For credit or debit card purchases of tickets for individual games in the tournament call the FA ticket hotline number 099 099 1996.

You can also purchase tickets for individual games by using an official ticket application form available from your nearest branch of Midland Bank.



40 TRAVEL NEWS

Bargains of the week — offers on ferries, flights and hotels, including treats for scuba divers and music lovers

FERRIES

SEA France continues to discount by cutting 50 per cent off brochure prices on Dover-Calais bookings made in advance for travel in May or June. Details: 01304 204204.

■ IRISH Ferries is offering deals for travel between May 27 and July 11 on Pembroke-Rosslare and Holyhead-Dublin routes with prices for a car and up to five adults starting from £104 for 48-hour returns. Details: 0345 171717.

■ WIGHTLINK has special fares on its Lymington to Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, service. A car and up to four passengers can travel for £33 return on off-peak sailings and for £50 for weekend sailings until July. Details from Eurodrive: 0181-324 4000.

■ STENA Line has added new holiday packages for this summer through a deal with Minot Hotels in Germany and Austria. Prices start at £76 per person for one night, including ferry crossing, with extra nights from £34 each. Details: 01233 211010.

■ BRITANNY Ferries has relaunched its summer service between Poole and St Malo with fares starting at £111 for a car and driver for a five-day return. Details: 0990 360360.

HOLIDAYS

CRETE, Skopelos or Skiathos for a fortnight for £199 per person with room-only accommodation are among several offers from Page & Moy all with departures from Gatwick or Luton next Tuesday. Details: 0116 250 7116.

■ SAN ANTONIO, Ibiza, is available from £249 per person including a fortnight's bed and breakfast from Sunworld with flights from Gatwick and Manchester next Wednesday. Details: 0113 255 2222.

■ A NINE-NIGHT camping trek through Tuscany taking in San Gimignano and Siena, with a flight from Heathrow on June 2, is available from Sherpa Expeditions for £645 per person. Details: 0181-577 2117.

■ SAVINGS of £80 are on offer for a fortnight's holiday in Gozo from Malta Direct Travel with flights from Gatwick on June 3 and 10. The new price including half-board is £372 per person. Details: 0181-785 3233.

■ DESTINATION Red Sea is offering a week's bed and breakfast accommodation at the Pigeon House beach chalets, Sharm el Sheikh, from £199 per person with flights on June 13 and 20. Details: 0181-440 9900.

■ A HIDEAWAY villa in Majorca combined with a manor house in Menorca are among options offered by Club Pollensa Holidays. The price for a fortnight's holiday starting on June 7 for a party of eight is £2,490 (£320 each) including car hire and inter-island ferries but not flights. Details: 01903 230128.

■ AUSTRALVEL has put together a 13-day trip including the Barrier Reef, Sydney Opera House and Ayers Rock with prices starting from £1,199 per person including flights and accommodation. Departures begin on November 21 and continue until next March. Details: 0171-734 7755.

■ THE MALDIVES for a fortnight for £499 per person is on offer from Crusader Travel with a flight on June 2. Single travellers pay no extra and week-long half-board holidays at a beach resort are also available for the same price. Details: 0181-744 0474.

■ OR FOR £955 per person, a saving of £540, stay in 4-star accommodation on the islands for a fortnight with all meals, drinks, sports and trip to a local fishing village included from The Holiday Place. Departures from Gatwick on June 2, 8 and 16. Details: 0171-435 8071.



The Blue Mountains: Austravel has a 13-day trip to Australia

HOTELS

THE Novotel hotel chain is offering a book of five discount vouchers with a value of £60 for just £24. It is redeemable at 200 hotels across Europe including 18 in the UK. Each voucher gives £12 or the equivalent of already discounted weekend and Bank Holiday rates. Available from the reception desks in Novotel hotels. Details: 0181-748 4580.

■ FIRST Option, the discount hotel reservations agency, has a new leisure-break weekend offering special deals. The company has a telephone "search and book" facility covering all UK hotels. Details: 0345 565657.

■ THE NEW 100-page guide to service accommodation in Europe and North America is available free from the Apartment Service. The company also offers privately owned flats for stays of one month or more. Details: 0181-944 6744.

■ THE Chelsea Hotel in London's Knightsbridge is celebrating the first phase of its £10-million renovation programme with a weekend theatre package, including two tickets for a West End show plus English breakfast or Sunday brunch. Cost is £99.50 per person for one night's accommodation until August 31. Details: 0171-838 9650.

■ A CULTURAL break at Crosby, near Liverpool, is available from the Blundell-Sands Hotel, a Victorian property with 41 rooms. A two-night half-board stay includes a travel pass, entrance to the Maritime Museum and the Museum of Liverpool Life. Cost is £87 per person and is available throughout July and August. Details: 0151 924 6515.

■ LISTEN to Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* in the candlelit grounds of Castle Howard in Yorkshire on Saturday, June 29, with supper split both before and after the performance at the nearby Worsley Arms Hotel. Price per couple is £165, including accommodation, dinner, transport to Castle Howard and concert tickets. Details: 01653 628234.

■ A SUMMER barbecue is on offer from the Westbury Hotel in Mayfair. Groups of ten or more pay £18 per person for a welcome glass of Pimm's and a barbecue on the hotel's seventh-floor terrace. Details: 0171-629 7755.

■ THE LAKES Country Cottages is offering £40 off week-long holidays at Charlton Lodge, near Masham in Yorkshire. The price per week for up to five people comes down to £250 for new bookings. Details: 01282 445097.

FLIGHTS

JOIN Air France's loyalty club, make three return flights between London City and Paris Orly before July 15 and earn a free Psion Organiser worth £350. Details 0181-742 6600.

■ DURING May, Alitalia's Italy Best offers include return flights to Rome for £160 and to Naples and Genoa for £150. Other cities include Milan £174, Bologna £163, Florence £175 and Venice £187. Details 0171-602 7111.

■ BUSINESS-class flights to New York flying Icelandair via Reykjavik cost just £912 return (60 per cent less than normal) when booked through Travelpack. The same fare also covers flights to Boston, Baltimore, Orlando and Fort Lauderdale. Details 0990 747101.

■ THOMAS Cook has negotiated special fares with British Midland for travel in May and June. Return tickets to Amsterdam cost £63 with Nice priced at £108, Zurich £88, Palma £140 and Malaga £149. Book seven days ahead and no later than June 2. Details 0171-499 4000.

■ JERSEY European has introduced a lower £79 return fare between Exeter and Dublin. Details 01392 360777.

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حکذا من الاجل

Does air travel have a future?

I AM beginning seriously to wonder whether the predicted growth in air travel will ever happen — at least to and from Britain.

Throughout the world many more people want to travel and can afford to do so. Airlines, planners, analysts and forecasters all predict that the number of passengers will double within ten or 15 years. Many millions of these travellers will want to come to Britain, particularly London.

But to do so they will have to use an airport. And nothing is guaranteed to lead to such fierce opposition as airport development. Successful governments have tried to tackle the problem, and dropped it once they realised the political and practical difficulties.

As a result, there is no coherent policy on airport development and a growing belief that any future growth will be choked because of a lack of the necessary runways and terminals.

An all-party group of MPs has laboured long and hard to work out what should be done and to make recommendations for action. Their report, *UK Airport Policy*, published this week, proves how near-impossible the task will be.

They want the Government to produce a White Paper. They want more information on possible climate change caused by aircraft emissions

Rural France on the map

By STEVE KEENAN AND TONY DAW

BRITISH holidaymakers who are going to France this year are heading inland to avoid paying high prices in seaside areas, according to a new survey.

Crystal Holidays reports that the Dordogne and the Côte d'Azur, still the two most popular destinations, have been joined for the first time by Brittany and rural Charente in the list of top ten regions.

In a separate survey, Florida has moved up the list of top ten package tour destinations this summer ahead of the Costa Blanca and Canaries.

Crystal claims to have been spared the drop in bookings to France suffered by most tour operators because of the poor exchange rate and French strikes last year. "The current trend is, however, away from busy, more expensive coastal resorts to inland areas where a three-course meal can cost only £6.50 and holidaymakers can shop for wine directly from local vineyards," says Deborah Marshall, Crystal product director.

The emergence of Brittany highlights another trend for

1996, with Britons not prepared to travel so far in France, cutting out the expense of petrol, motorway tolls and overnight stops.

GMF Holidays is also claiming good bookings but decided this week to offer a free Le Shuttle crossing or a week's free car hire for July and August Côte d'Azur holidays booked this month.

The parlous state of the French holiday market, still 25 per cent down on last year, was borne out by increased discounting in the camping and mobile home market, including an offer by Canva Holidays this week to cut 30 per cent off brochure prices for June holidays in France.

The package tour survey, by Portland Holidays, Britain's leading direct selling company, revealed a growth in popularity for further-flung destinations such as Florida and Turkey.

Nigel David, Portland's managing director, says: "As holidaymakers become more experienced and the cost falls, we can expect to see several more 'exotic' destinations in our top ten next year."



Honeymoon couple in the Maldives — but the trend for newlyweds now is towards adventure as well as romance

Newlyweds branch out

By TONY DAW

THE nature of exotic honeymoons is beginning to change. This week tour operators are reporting a trend among newly-marrieds to seek more adventure on holiday.

The Caribbean, with its laid-back lifestyle beneath the palm trees, remains the most popular choice for honeymooners and weddings abroad, but an increasing number of newlyweds are heading for Borneo, East Africa and even the Comores, off the northeast coast of Madagascar.

Tropical Places lists St Lucia and Barbados as its two most popular honeymoon destinations this year, followed by Mauritius, Kenya and Jamaica. The Sussex-based company says many couples opting for Kenya combine a luxury safari with a week at an

Indian Ocean resort, flying into the Masai Mara in a light aircraft for five days before retiring to the beach for a week.

Jenette McDonald of Tropical Places says that all-inclusive holidays are also popular as couples will know exactly how much they have to pay, an important factor after an expensive wedding.

"Most hotels will offer something special for honeymooners," she adds, "ranging from the traditional sparkling wine and flowers to a river rafting trip on the Martha Brae river in Jamaica when you stay at the new Braco Village resort."

"Among the less well-known destinations being re-

quested are the Comores, with miles of deserted white sandy beaches but where watersports are also readily available."

Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions says that trekking in Nepal, jungle trips in Borneo and riding holidays in Kenya are beginning to attract honeymooners.

Rowan Paterson, Worldwide director, says: "Couples now seem to be looking for more than just two weeks on the beach for their honeymoons and want a really memorable and adventurous trip instead. A very popular choice is to combine a jungle trek in Borneo with somewhere luxurious on the Malaysian coast."

Lunn Poly reports that the Caribbean remains the most popular venue for a wedding abroad. To underline the point, the Four Seasons Resort on Nevis had 18 honeymoon couples staying last week, including several who had married on the famous Pinney's Beach.

Lunn Poly adds, however, that an increasing number of couples opt for honeymoons on cruises. "A Caribbean cruise is still seen as a romantic holiday of a lifetime and many cruise companies offer free cabin upgrades to honeymoon couples," the company says. "Another major advantage for honeymooners is that as most of the facilities and food are included in the price it is easier to budget when planning the wedding."

Cheaper Europe flights on way

By DAVID CHURCHILL

AIRLINE fares throughout Europe are likely to fall sharply in the late 1990s because of greater liberalisation of European aviation from the summer of next year and the growth of no-frills airlines such as Richard Branson's Virgin Express.

Airline executives, European Union officials and other transport experts surveyed for a new study on the impact of the full deregulation of Europe's skies from June 1997 say that greater competition will force airlines to cut prices. Airlines within the EU will be able to fly freely within one another's markets for the first time, a move that threatens the financial viability of some State-aided national carriers.

Already domestic German fares in the first quarter this year have fallen by an average 21 per cent after price-cutting by Lufthansa, eager to protect its market share.

The industry study, by the consultants SH & E and Harrell Associates for American Express, reveals: "There is widespread agreement that fares will come down." This will be partly because of new ways of selling airline tickets that cut out travel agents and their commission, normally 8 per cent of the cost of a ticket. British Midland, for example, is already selling tickets via the Internet.

But many of those surveyed think companies may be less willing to pay for the extras offered by business-class cabins on short-haul European routes. One respondent said: "Passengers don't care about meals and drink; they want frequency and punctuality. They are also becoming more price-conscious."

Another survey, in *Business Traveller* magazine, finds that less than 20 per cent of business passengers regard food and drink on planes as essential.

Kyle Davis, the airfare management unit director for Amex, the credit-card company, says the impact of deregulation will be the "emergence of 'upstart' airlines competing with established flag carriers, with greater choice and falling fares."

SATURDAY TRAVEL

Travel the world again in Weekend on Saturday Robin Nellands and Joe Roberts in Turkey Sara Wheeler in Nepal Graham Lord in Java Bristol's Festival of the Sea

Japan a new tourist target

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, is to fly to Japan on Saturday at the head of a 20-strong group from some of Britain's leading cities, hotels and tourist attractions to persuade thousands more high-spending Japanese tourists to visit Britain.

The 642,000 Japanese — 80 per cent of them young women — who came to Britain last year spent an average of £860 each during their stay, making Japan an important economic target. Japanese visitors spent a total of £553 million on hotels, shopping, sightseeing and other activities in Britain last year, 35 per cent more than in 1994.

Norma Jarboe, the chief executive of Cardiff Marketing, said: "The Japanese are law-abiding... the most delightful of guests." Wales already has the biggest share of Japanese investment in Britain and hopes to boost visits by friends and relatives to senior staff now working in factories there. Mrs Jarboe also plans to talk to Japanese groups that organise visits by students, newlyweds and schools.

A three-year sales drive has



Virginia Bottomley

already increased the proportion of Japanese visitors staying in English Lakes Hotels from 10 to 25 per cent. Now Simon Berry, the marketing director, hopes to boost the numbers of Japanese tourists in his five hotels still further by taking part in the trip to Tokyo and Osaka.

Diane Lomax of the Greater Manchester Visitor and Convention Bureau intends to begin talks with airlines to open up new routes between Japan and Manchester. The British Tourist Board is partly sponsoring the trip.

China crime alert

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE FOREIGN Office is warning British visitors to China to be on their guard against rising crime.

The latest travel advice to travel agents and tour operators says: "Muggings in the main cities, sexual harassment and crime on trains are increasing, as are thefts on overnight trains and coach journeys. Foreigners are now regular targets."

The Foreign Office's consular division has rarely issued advice as hard-hitting as this month's in China. The diplomats say: "The trans-Siberian

railway is noted for smuggling. Search your compartment for contraband before the journey commences and thereafter secure the door. Drug-smuggling and related crimes are on the increase in Yunnan. The Karakorum and Khunjerab pass routes can be hazardous and lawless."

Of safety, they say: "Only Air China, China Southern, China Eastern and Shanghai Airlines are believed to carry out internationally recognised aircraft-maintenance procedures."

Though tourism to China is

growing steadily, the Peking authorities have ruled that no new luxury hotels, office buildings, villas or recreational facilities will be built this year. Instead, State-controlled investment will be targeted to "urban infrastructure, industrial renovation, technology, agriculture and water conservation," they say.

Last year, 184,900 British tourists visited China, a 10.7 per cent increase on 1994. In January this year a further 13,300 made the journey, 18.9 per cent up on the same month last year.

Hanoi is shut

VIETNAM is not allowing tourists into Hanoi next month because a national conference is being held in the capital.

Every hotel room has been taken by party dignitaries and embassies around the world have been ordered to stop issuing visas for travel between June 10 and June 30.

Business travellers who have had their visa applications already endorsed in Hanoi will still be able to travel and tourist visas will be issued normally again in July.

Threat of bird strikes rises

AIRLINES fear that another dry summer could increase the number of potentially dangerous bird strikes as jets take off and land at British airports, *Harvey Elliott* writes.

More than 1,000 incidents of aircraft hitting birds in flight were reported to the Civil Aviation Authority last year — a 25 per cent increase on 1994. Experts are convinced that the rise was caused by last year's long hot summer, which allowed more young birds than normal to survive, and prevented grass from growing on airfields to a height sufficient to deter the birds. Another hot summer could make the problem worse.

A rise in the number of gulls and Canada geese in Britain and the rest of Europe is

so worrying airlines and military air commanders that some 140 delegates from 27 nations met last week in London to try to find a solution.

John Thorpe, chairman of the European Bird Strike Committee, said that the grass was grown long so that birds could not see where they were walking and flying elsewhere. "It was clear from our discussions that the 20cm long grass which is recommended just did not grow in the heat." Last year ten people died when an executive jet flew into a flock of lapwings in Paris; two died when an F15 fighter flew into birds over Israel; and 24 were killed when an American airborne reconnaissance jet flew into a flock of Canada geese in Alaska.

Save on expenses

EUROPEAN companies could save some 6 per cent of their annual business travel costs — equivalent to about £5.6 billion a year — by better handling the way they process travel expenses, *David Churchill* writes.

A survey of 77 major European companies carried out by consultants Price Waterhouse and commissioned by American Express found that most companies waste time and money in the way they reconcile the travel expenses of executives on the move.

This reconciliation accounts for about three quarters of the "hidden" processing costs of business travel. The study shows that the business traveller spends valuable time collecting receipts, itemising

expenses and calculating exchange rates.

In the bulk of the companies surveyed, an average of 20 expense reports for overseas travel were submitted by executives each year. Price Waterhouse suggests that this could be reduced to 11 reports if an automated system was adopted. Other suggestions include eliminating internal travel departments and letting executives make their own bookings electronically.

Mahmud Eminan, a senior Amex vice-president, says the Price Waterhouse study shows that reducing "the previously hidden costs of business travel represents one of the most important opportunities companies have in the 1990s to save on operating costs."

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COUNTRY CLUB Hotel Group

India's manager hopes to turn short contract into three-year tenure

Patil cast to fill inspirational role

By SIMON WILDE

THESE are tough times for cricket's national managers. Since eight of the nine Test-playing teams committed the unforgivable sin of not winning the World Cup two months ago, five of them — Wes Hall, Ajit Wadekar, Raymond Illingworth, Bob Simpson and Imtiaz Alam — have hung up their track suits.

Two new ones will be on show at the Oval today. They belong to David Lloyd, of England, and Sandeep Patil, of India. For Lloyd (who prefers the title of coach), it is his first match in charge; for Patil, his third. His first mission — a one-day tournament in Singapore — ended with his side third out of three.

That does not greatly worry him. Patil is too polite to say so, but his playing days taught him what it is like to be branded a scapegoat. He accepts that he is in a precarious position and is ready for whatever fate delivers. "Let's live for the moment," he says, which has always been his motto.

As a player, Patil was one of the most flamboyant batsmen of his day and accomplished two of the most impressive feats in the history of Test cricket. He hit six fours in an over from Bob Willis when Willis was near his prime and scored 174 against Lillee, Hogg and Pascoe — when all were in their prime — only days after being put in hospital by a bouncer from Pascoe.

Patil also did some pretty wild things off the field, though the only one he will discuss is his lead role in a Hindu film. Indian players are often treated like movie stars in their own country. Patil actually became one — at least, for one film. It was an all-action adventure called *Once Upon A Time In India*.

Two years later, Patil's playing career lived out the unhappy sequel, *Unknown Again*. In 1984 India lost a Test match to



Lloyd, left, and Patil, in conversation at the Oval yesterday, are charged with reviving the fortunes of their national teams

England in Delhi and Patil and Kapil Dev were dropped for their irresponsible dismissals. Kapil, being Kapil, was recalled after one match; Patil, being Patil, never was. At the age of 28, his international career was over — by some estimations, five years before it should have been.

Like Lloyd, Patil is young enough to be capable of forging close links with his players. Wadekar was like a father to them: Patil wants to be an

elder brother. As he was playing club cricket in India with several of them until recently, he has not had any trouble gaining their respect. "My ambition for the team is to play consistently good cricket," he said. "Too often we have played well one day and badly the next. We may not win all the time but I want us to win all the time with us always. Everyone agreed that our match with Australia during the World Cup was a very

good game of cricket, even though we lost it.

"I understand that it is sometimes difficult for the players. Their places are at stake and so is a lot of money. It is my job to encourage them, not to discourage them. I can easily drop a player and easily discipline one but, if I do so too often, the failure will be mine, not theirs."

Patil's intention is that India should play the game in the right spirit, he has every

reason for believing so after their disgraceful exit from the World Cup. They were comfortably losing their semi-final to Sri Lanka when the Calcutta crowd rioted, causing the match to be abandoned. "We like to call ourselves sportsmen in India," Patil said, "but we have actually got to mean it."

These are fine words, well said, but living up to them will be a another matter. India have a tough year ahead.

After England, one-day tournaments in Sri Lanka and Canada will be swiftly followed by Test series against South Africa, Australia and West Indies.

Whether Patil, who would like to stay with the team for three years, will survive them all remains to be seen. Like Lloyd, he has earned his position through service with national junior teams but, also like Lloyd, his initial contract extends only until September.

Leaders will provide champions with test of character

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ONLY a team that has set remarkably high standards could have its championship credentials questioned after a single defeat. This is the position in which Warwickshire find themselves, after a loss to Hampshire on Monday, and there will be more than the usual interest in the visit of Leicestershire to Edgbaston today.

Leicestershire lead the table and, once more, are confronting those who dismiss their unfashionable squad as also-rans. They are unchanged today, and likely to provide a serious examination of Warwickshire, who were uncharacteristically lifeless in losing to Hampshire.

That charge cannot be levelled at the captain, Dermot Reeve, who employed such dubious tactics in trying to stave off defeat that he could face disciplinary action. Reeve persistently threw his bat away while playing Raj Maru's left-arm spin with his pads and it now seems certain that the Test and County Cricket Board will ask the umpires for their view.

Reeve can at least call on some more experienced assistance today. His vice-captain, Tim Munton, is still absent

Britain coach resigns before Olympics

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

DAVID WHITAKER, the coach of the Great Britain men's hockey team, resigned from his post with immediate effect yesterday, citing business reasons. He had been expected to coach the team through to the Olympic Games, which start in Atlanta in two months' time.

Whitaker, a management consultant in a multinational company, was appointed to the part-time post of head coach of the British team in 1993. His resignation will come as a serious blow to the team, whose fortunes will now be guided by the two assistants, Jon Copp and James Dunne, who, though competent coaches themselves, are short of international experience in this capacity. Whitaker coached the Great Britain team to its bronze medal at Los Angeles in 1984 and its gold medal in Seoul in 1988.

The British team, which started a training camp at Bisham Abbey yesterday, was informed of Whitaker's resignation the night before. Richard Dods, chairman of the Great Britain men's Olympic hockey committee, who made the announcement, said that he was not entirely surprised because, after the Olympic



Whitaker: stepping down

and much missed, but Andy Moles and Gladstone Small are set to return. When fit Small adds an accomplished air to the Warwickshire attack that they may well need today.

Not the least noteworthy aspect of Hampshire's win at Monday was that it came with Maru as third-choice captain. He will only continue in the role against Durham at Portsmouth today if John Stephenson fails a fitness test on his injured hand. Shaun Udall returns for Hampshire but Robin Smith misses the game with a broken finger.

A similar injury keeps Richard Harden out of Somerset's game with Northamptonshire at Taunton. Harden was one of the casualties of a furious spell of fast bowling by Courtney Walsh at Bristol on Monday. Another was Peter Bowler, who has 17 stitches in a facial wound and will also sit out the match today.

Gloucestershire have begun encouragingly in the championship, beating Middlesex and coming within a single wicket of victory over Somerset. Surrey take them on at Gloucester while missing four players on England duty. Rob Cundiffe is out of the home team, however, and a trialist, Nick Trainer, will open the batting.

The British team, which will continue to be managed by David Whitaker, is due to play Germany, the Olympic champions, at Milton Keynes on Sunday.

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pts
1	The Burnies (B Warren)	4433	51	Estons Gales (J Eaton)	4168
2	The May Allstars (D Gordon)	4381	52	Dares Demons (D Tait)	4167
3	Opposites 4th XI (P Simpson)	4362	53	Old Catmen 2nd XI (A Fisher)	4161
4	Breakfast Boys (G Goodman)	4339	54	Another Fiasco (M K Sullivan)	4157
5	Coh Ash Kingtons (N Elson)	4333	55	55 Boys Two (M Jones)	4157
6	Opposites 1st XI (P Simpson)	4323	56	77 Wonders (J Hildner)	4156
7	Kathleeners (D Harvey)	4320	57	Deeds Gales 2 (J Eaton)	4155
8	Hunt 4 £10,000 (J Hunt)	4311	58	Opportunity 3rd XI (S Stewart)	4155
9	Taunton A (J Hunt)	4308	59	60 N C W (M Powell)	4155
10	James Boys One (M Jones)	4306	60	61 N C W (M Powell)	4155
11	(D Agnew)	4305	61	62 N C W (M Powell)	4155
12	(M M Bower)	4298	62	63 N C W (M Powell)	4155
13	Odyssey Three (M Long)	4298	63	64 N C W (M Powell)	4155
14	Bart's Allstars One (B C Howes)	4298	64	65 N C W (M Powell)	4155
15	Law Of Australia (R Paul)	4298	65	66 N C W (M Powell)	4155
16	Asparagus Twelve (B Jones)	4279	66	67 N C W (M Powell)	4155
17	Freddie Team (R Price)	4278	67	68 N C W (M Powell)	4155
18	Hunt 4 £10,000 A (J Hunt)	4278	68	69 N C W (M Powell)	4155
19	Oh Wives (H Paul)	4263	69	70 N C W (M Powell)	4155
20	Sunderland C2 (J Manton-Willard)	4261	70	71 N C W (M Powell)	4155
21	Records Mervin (R Williams)	4251	71	72 N C W (M Powell)	4155
22	R P Allstars 1 (R Paul)	4251	72	73 N C W (M Powell)	4155
23	24 Slyds The Limit CC (K Sutton)	4246	73	74 N C W (M Powell)	4155
24	25 Parth Finders A (P Stewart)	4244	74	75 N C W (M Powell)	4155
25	26 Halkanshah (T Morgan)	4243	75	76 N C W (M Powell)	4155
26	27 John's XI (R J Johnson)	4237	76	77 N C W (M Powell)	4155
27	28 Caru's Crickeys (J Candy)	4233	77	78 N C W (M Powell)	4155
28	29 Linda's Loosers (J Taylor)	4229	78	79 N C W (M Powell)	4155
29	30 Gales Gals 3 (J Eaton)	4227	79	80 N C W (M Powell)	4155
30	31 The Bodykings (C Taylor)	4213	80	81 N C W (M Powell)	4155
31	32 K P Allstars 3 (N Paul)	4208	81	82 N C W (M Powell)	4155
32	33 Happy Valley 2 (R Wallace)	4201	82	83 N C W (M Powell)	4155
33	34 Bowled Martin (R Paul)	4201	83	84 N C W (M Powell)	4155
34	35 The Waggings Tail (JAM Tait)	4201	84	85 N C W (M Powell)	4155
35	36 N C W (M Powell)	4201	85	86 N C W (M Powell)	4155
36	37 N C W (M Powell)	4201	86	87 N C W (M Powell)	4155
37	38 N C W (M Powell)	4201	87	88 N C W (M Powell)	4155
38	39 N C W (M Powell)	4201	88	89 N C W (M Powell)	4155
39	40 N C W (M Powell)	4201	89	90 N C W (M Powell)	4155
40	41 N C W (M Powell)	4201	90	91 N C W (M Powell)	4155
41	42 N C W (M Powell)	4201	91	92 N C W (M Powell)	4155
42	43 N C W (M Powell)	4201	92	93 N C W (M Powell)	4155
43	44 N C W (M Powell)	4201	93	94 N C W (M Powell)	4155
44	45 N C W (M Powell)	4201	94	95 N C W (M Powell)	4155
45	46 N C W (M Powell)	4201	95	96 N C W (M Powell)	4155
46	47 N C W (M Powell)	4201	96	97 N C W (M Powell)	4155
47	48 N C W (M Powell)	4201	97	98 N C W (M Powell)	4155
48	49 N C W (M Powell)	4201	98	99 N C W (M Powell)	4155
49	50 N C W (M Powell)	4201	99	100 N C W (M Powell)	4155



THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITC											
Batsmen (001-135)				All-rounders (150-203)				Bowlers (275-404)			
Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	Total	Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	Total	Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	Total
A Adams (001)	264	(44)	0	0	0	0	0	A W Smith (190)	0	0	0
C F Archer (002)	181	(82)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
P R Arnold (003)	188	(24)	0	0	0	0	0	J A Arnold (226)	117	(34)	13
C J Arney (004)	201	(111)	0	0	0	0	0	R J Bailey (229)	103	(24)	13
M Ashford (005)	91	(9)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
J Bailey (006)	312	(22)	0	0	0	0	0	P A Smith (192)	111	(23)	13
R Barnett (007)	312	(22)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
M Berson (008)	312	(22)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G Berson (009)	312	(22)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
D Bicknell (010)	73	(9)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
D Bicknell (011)	73	(9)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
D Bicknell (012)	284	(13)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
N E Berson (013)	284	(13)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
N E Berson (014)	284	(13)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
D Bys (015)	154	(23)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
S Campbell (016)	175	(34)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
M J Church (018)	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
P A Cuthrie (019)	336	(111)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
J P Crowther (020)	201	(88)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
J P Crowther (021)	201	(88)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
C D Crowe (022)	70	(28)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
D D Currie (023)	67	(14)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
J A Dalton (024)	116	(4)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
R Dawson (025)	26	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
M P Downes (026)	232	(138)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
M P Downes (027)	232	(138)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
A Panton (028)	121	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
S Panton (029)	121	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
D P Fulton (032)	127	(34)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G F Galloway (033)	231	(94)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G F Galloway (034)	231	(94)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
N A G (035)	301	(77)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G G Gooch (036)	301	(77)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G G Gooch (037)	301	(77)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
A Habib (038)	301	(77)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
J W Hall (039)	301	(77)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
C C Hancock (040)	175	(88)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
R H Haden (041)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
M H Haden (042)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (043)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
M H Haden (044)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (045)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (046)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (047)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (048)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (049)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (050)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (051)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (052)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (053)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (054)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (055)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (056)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (057)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (058)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (059)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (060)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (061)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (062)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (063)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (064)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (065)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (066)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (067)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (068)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (069)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (070)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (071)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (072)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (073)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (074)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (075)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (076)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (077)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (078)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (079)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (080)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (081)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (082)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (083)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (084)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (085)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (086)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (087)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (088)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (089)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (090)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (091)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (092)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (093)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (094)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (095)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (096)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (097)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (098)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (099)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (100)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (101)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (102)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (103)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (104)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (105)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (106)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (107)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (108)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (109)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (110)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (111)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (112)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (113)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (114)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (115)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (116)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (117)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (118)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (119)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (120)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (121)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (122)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (123)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (124)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (125)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (126)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (127)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (128)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (129)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (130)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (131)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (132)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Satchwell (194)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (133)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	W M Smith (236)	133	(9)	0
G H Haden (134)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	C J Bailey (230)	111	(23)	13
G H Haden (135)	64	(61)	0	0	0	0	0	N M K Smith (191)	50	(2)	0
G H Haden (136)	64	(61)	0	0							

Sporting dreams turned into virtual reality

Sporting dreams often used to begin with nothing more sophisticated than a tin can. Children would fuel their fantasies by kicking cans when they could not get a ball. With a can at their feet, they were a Matthews or a Finney, playing for their country, dreaming dreams, on their way to glory.

Today, children do things differently. They like their sporting dreams to begin on computer screens, and their fantasies to be animated and digitalised. The modern merchants of the tin can know just what the youngsters like — and give it to them. So today, little more than a javelin throw from the almost finished Olympic stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, there opens a fantasy land designed to spark a whole new generation of sporting dreamers.

Here, at the touch of a few buttons, they claim, you can experience instantly what it is like to be an Olympic competitor. Forget the years of painful training, forget those nerve-racking national trials — you simply need to leap into the world of virtual reality. This being Atlanta, the 12-acre sporting theme park is grandly styled "Coca-Cola Olympic City" and participants are promised that they will experience instantly what it

is like to be an Olympic champion for a day.

The idea of getting a taste of the Olympics through virtual reality is a fascinating one. The fantasy starts at the gate. As you pass through the entrance to Olympic City, you are greeted by a mock-up of a vast stand full of spectators, with sound effects of cheering and shouting to convince you that you are stepping into the Olympic stadium itself.

Once inside, you can try your skill, speed and strength over Olympic

'Forget all the years of training'

sports ranging from the traditional, such as gymnastics, to the latest, such as baseball. If you want to change your legs at sprinting, you are taken to real starting blocks and talked through the technique of the crouch start by the Olympic sprinter, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who lines up life-sized on a giant video screen beside you.

At the gun, however quickly you explode from the blocks, you glimpse from the corner of your eye Joyner-Kersey romping away from you. After just ten metres, through the magic of an electronic beam, the computerised scoreboard will tell you "time" for 100 metres, and how you would have been humbled by the Olympic sprinter.

If you are a slow starter (as is,



incidentally, multi gold medal-winner Carl Lewis), you might prefer to test your athletic potential on a gymnastics balance beam. Leotard-clad Shannon Miller, a United States gymnast, makes it look simple as you step out on to a real beam. If you glance down (not recommended), you will be unnerved by the illusion that you are balancing many yards above a gymnasium floor. But this is virtual reality land and, if you topple, you find it is only inches.

This interactive technology is still in its infancy, but it does give tantalising glimpses of how it might be used by the serious sportsman of the future. For instance, in Olympic City you can sit astride a mountain bike and simulate a treacherous, twisting Olympic-style descent. The trail unwinds on a massive screen as you pedal, the shouts of the crowd

and fellow competitors fill your head, and the bike beneath you bucks and turns as it follows the track.

For a competitor in a real event, such race rehearsal could work wonders. With the aid of technology, you could ride a simulated course endlessly, until you were perfectly at home on every bump and bend.

Being the United States, much space is reserved in Coca-Cola's Olympic dreamland for interactive games of basketball and baseball. You can play one-to-one against the

champion whose sporting ambition was sparked and fanned by the gadgets, the screens, the computers and the hype. But we may have to wait until 2008 to see if it has worked.

In the meantime, there are a couple of things that any would-be champion, his ambition whetted by virtual victories, might do well to remember. In the real world, there are years of effort that come before stepping on to the rostrum to collect those gold medals. They cannot be had instantly by beating your opponent on screen.

'Be Olympic champion for a day'

And, across the road from Olympic City, it will not just be the flesh-and-blood competitors that make things different for the real athletes.

In the virtual reality pavilions there is air-conditioning, cool mist spray machines and climate control that keeps the world at a comfortable 72°F. At the opening of the Olympic stadium last Saturday, Jonathan Edwards, the triple jump world record-holder from Britain, was forced to a halt because of cramp and dehydration. The temperature at the trackside was said to have reached 112°F. In Atlanta, in the real Olympic Games, that for the competitors is the brutal reality.

JOHN BRYANT

Britain failing to take the lead as Olympics head towards the ballroom

Dancing around a question of sport

More than 3,000 dancers and as many spectators from 44 countries will descend on Blackpool tomorrow for the start of the foremost event in the ballroom dancing calendar, the British Open championships.

When they step on to the Wintergarden dance floor, Marcus and Karen Hilton, from Rochdale, are confidently expected to claim their fifth British Open professional title by winning the modern championship, dancing waltz, tango, foxtrot and quickstep.

In some of the other categories, however, Britain's world domination appears to be on the wane, at a time when ballroom dancing is moving closer to inclusion in the Olympic Games.

The International Dance Sport Federation, ballroom dancing's Zurich-based governing body, was recognised provisionally by the International Olympic Committee last year, raising hopes that dancing could feature in the 2004 Games.

Other countries, such as Japan, Germany and Sweden, treat their leading dancers as sports stars equal to footballers and athletes, giving the results of dance competitions on sports news programmes that are a far cry from *Come Dancing*.

Amateurs there are permitted to earn money from teaching and are also encouraged



Ruth Gledhill follows steps being taken to redefine a typical tearoom diversion

by generous sponsorship. Competitions, including some in this country, are televised about every two weeks by Eurosport, the Paris-based satellite channel.

In Britain, by contrast, the image of ballroom dancing remains one of a faintly-humorous tearoom activity indulged in by those in their fading years.

Although dancewear companies such as ChrisAnne and Supadance are generous in the sponsorship of couples and

'They lose pounds in sweat as they dance'

events, financial backing from outside the dance world is almost impossible to obtain.

As the funding and recognition given to dancing in other countries increases in proportion to its decline in Britain — the BBC has abandoned coverage of the United Kingdom championships this year — dancers fear that the British conviction that ballroom dancing has no right to call itself a sport could soon cost this country a host of Olympic medals.

Bill Irvine, a former world

champion who will chair the evening board of 11 judges in Blackpool this week, said: "There is no question that dancing has art in it. But the amount of hours that goes into practising and training makes it a sport as well."

"At the British, couples start dancing at 2pm and do seven rounds over the next 12 hours. It is like running a 100-metre race seven times. The whole hall screams its head off for their favourite couple. They lose pounds in sweat as they dance, and most work out daily in a gym to achieve the high levels of fitness they need."

As a judge, he will assess style, movement and music. Years on the floor have given him the ability to assess in an instant a clean "topline", the alignment of a couple's arms, head and shoulders, together with the quality of their footwork.

Complaints that dancing is not suitable for the Olympics have been made by purists who believe no sport should be acknowledged as such unless a victory is clearly quantifiable by distance, speed or height.

Diving, however, which is not contested on that basis, is one of the oldest Olympic sports. Synchronised swimming, dressage, ice skating and rhythmic and artistic gymnastics are all accepted at the Games, the latter including floor exercises performed to music.

Gill McKenzie, the championship organiser since 1981, said the competitors' training programmes would match that of anyone in any other sport. "Anyone who came to Blackpool to see the British would realise instantly that competitive dancing in England is indeed a sport and could not be regarded as merely a hobby or leisure interest," she said.

Ken Bateman, a former champion with his wife, Blanche Ingle, and now a leading judge, believes there can be no question over whether dance is a sport or an art. "It is physical, but it also has grace and beauty. People see the pretty dresses floating round the floor, but they don't see the concentration or the muscles working underneath the finery."

No matter how hard their rivals work, the Hiltons should prevail: the closest contest should be that for the runners-up position.

The titles and placings in the professional Latin and the amateur modern and Latin could, however, be more open, contested and, after three years, run when the amateur modern title was in British



Marcus and Karen Hilton are hoping to win their fifth British Open professional title

hands, it could this year go to a non-British couple, Massimo Georgianni and Alessia Manfredini, from Italy.

Should they succeed in defeating the favourites, Christopher Hawkins and Hazel Newberry, from London, the erosion of Britain's dominance would be further underlined.

The competition starts tomorrow with the senior modern championships, for couples aged over 35, where Britain's Chris and Ann Freeman are expected to be among the leading six couples.

McKenzie predicted some intense battles. "In the professional Latin, there have been several split partnerships resulting in exciting new couples," she said. "There will be a terrific battle to get into the final because there are some really good couples."

Wales travel warily

WALES leave for an eight-match rugby union tour to Australia today that begins in Perth a week on Saturday and ends after the second international in Sydney on June 22. They will leave with a mixture of guarded optimism and trepidation (Gerald Davies writes).

To travel south to the Antipodes is a journey vested with dread for Wales. When they went to New Zealand in 1988, more than a century of points were scored against them in

two international matches. Three years later, Australia scored 63 points in the single international in Brisbane.

The squad leaves in a buoyant mood. Yet a poor showing in the World Cup last summer and only a solitary victory in the recent five nations' championship are hardly the stuff of confidence.

TRAVEL: May 28: v Western Australia (Perth) June 2: v Australian Capital Territory (Canberra), 5: v New South Wales (Sydney), 8: v Australia (Brisbane), 12: v Australia (Brisbane), 15: v New South Wales (Canberra), 18: v Victoria (Melbourne), 22: v Australia (Sydney)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42
DEMOGORGON
(a) A terrible deity, whose very name was capable of producing the most horrible effects. He is first mentioned by the vitriolic fourth-century Christian polemicist, Lactantius, who in so doing broke with the superstition that the very reference to Demogorgon by name brought death and disaster. "Must I call your master to my aid? At whose dread name the trembling furies quake? Hell stands aghast, and earth's foundations shudder." Milton: "The dreaded name of Demogorgon."

MANTICORE
(a) A fabulous beast usually given as having the head of a man, the body of a lion, a porcupine's quills and the tail of a scorpion. From the Persian *marikhorra* a man-eater. It is mentioned by Ctesias, a Greek living in the late fifth and early fourth centuries BC who wrote a history of Persia. It features in medieval bestiaries and also in heraldry, where it generally has horns and the tail and feet of a dragon. Martinus Scribnerus says that it was "the most noxious animal that ever infested the earth."

BUBASTIS
(a) The ancient capital of Lower Egypt, named after Bast, the local cat-headed goddess. The Greeks identified her with Artemis and the cat was sacred to her.
TARA
(c) The hill of Tara, County Meath, 20 miles north of Dublin, was the ancient seat of the High Kings of Ireland until the sixth century AD. Only a series of earthworks now remains to mark the site of Tara's halls. Here were held a national assembly, the Feis of Tara, and gatherings for music, games and literary contests. Here too was the Lia-Pail, or Coronation Stone, which is supposed to have been Jacob's pillow taken from Tara to Scotland.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Qxh6+! Kxh6 2 h5g6+ Kg7 3 Rh7+ Kg8 4 g7f7 Rxf7 5 Rf8+ Rf8-Kxh7 6 Rxf7 and White wins easily on material.

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RADIO CHOICE

The appetite for blood

The Bloody Protest. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

Just as the history of Irish nationalism is constantly being updated, so this documentary about the 1916 Easter Rising is being repeated, this time taking account of the latest IRA bombings in London. Presenter Finlan O'Toole's closing statement remains the same, however: "The 1916 uprising will not be consigned to the past until its power is no longer felt in the present." Ireland has had more than its fair share of politicians, poets and martyrs. Because memories die hard there, *The Bloody Protest* has a deep reservoir of nationalist passion to draw upon. It fixes 1966, with its celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising, as the year when the memory of blood whetted the appetite for it.

The Purple, the Blue and the Red. Radio 4, 8.00pm.

I understand the final instalment of Anthony Howard's anatomy of Church-State relations will set even more cats among the pigeons. Last week Lord Runcie revealed that, as Archbishop, he had knowingly ordained practising homosexuals. Tonight's programme deals with the increasing emphasis on management in the Church of England. Dr George Carey pooh-poohs the suggestion that this new drive for efficiency amounts to the " Thatcherisation " of the Church. But he worries that, although they are creating a Church that is better organised financially, and better governed synodically, its constituency is much smaller. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Les Archen, incl. at 12.30-12.45pm
News 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Gooding, incl. 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Soundbite 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Frances Edmonds 7.00 The News Headlines 7.30 David Allen 9.00 Paul Jones 9.45 Gospel Train 10.30 The Jamiesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl. 6.55, 7.35 Racing preview 8.35 The Magazine incl. 10.35 Europe's 12.30 Health News 12.00 Midday with Mairi incl. Moneycheck with Katie Darham 12.35pm International Football: China v England in Beijing 2.40 Race on the Radio incl. at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 Nationwide, incl. 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra with Valerie Sanderson, incl. at 7.20 Sport 7.35 David Gower's Cricket Weekly, David Gower and his guests round up the week's events 9.05 SportsAmerica, with Alan Byrd 9.35 American Gridiron 10.05 News Fax 11.00 Night East 12.05am After Hours — Early Call, with Vincent Hanna 2.05 Up All Night, with Richard Dalrymple

TALK RADIO

6.30am The Breakfast Show with Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Fasham 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sport 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes Mendelssohn (Overture for wind instruments, Op 24); Rimsky-Korsakov (Suite for Salari); Donizetti, arr. Liszt (Valse de concert sur deux motifs de Lucia di Persiani); Boccherini (String Quintet in B flat, Op 39 No 1); Ireland (Legend); Soler (Concerto No 3 in G)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Zvezlari (Concerto No 1 in G); Saint-Saëns (Carnival of the Animals); Brahms (Piano Quintet No 3 in C minor, Op 80)
10.00 Musical Encounters, Bath Festival, Mozart (Adagio and Fugue in C minor); 10.10 Artist of the Week: Roger Vignoles, piano, Schubert (Winterreise, excerpts) 10.30 Kodaly (Sonata Op 8, 3rd movement); Schumann (Die Lorelei, Op 25 No 7; Die Lorelei, Op 31 No 2); Szymanowski (Five Pieces, Nos 1 and 2); Chausson (Poème); Ravel (Don Quichotte à Dulcinee); Mansurien (Capriccio); Britten (Tempest); Debussy (Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune); Bartok (Hungarian Song); Bartok, arr. Michael Thomas (Bagpipe, Mikrokosmos); Gounod (La Cenerentola)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Respighi
1.00pm Bel Canto Voices, Patrick O'Connor's guest is Dennis O'Neill (45)
2.00 Schools: Radio Showcase 2.05 In the News 2.25 Something to Think About 2.40 Music Workshop

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing (FM only), Paul Allen sees 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl. 7.25, 8.25 Sports 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.00 Yesterday's report in Parliament 8.55 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts (c) 9.30 On the Ropes, John Humphrys asks prisoners boss Derek Lewis how he coped when the Home Secretary sacked him (34)
10.00 News; Brighton Rock (FM only). The final episode of the Graham Greene story, with Steven Macintosh, Claire Skinner and John Birdfield (c)
10.30-1.00pm Cricket: England v India (LW only)
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent (FM only)
12.00 News; You and Yours (FM only)
12.25pm Inspiration (FM only). A quiz about inventions, discoveries and design, chaired by Chris Stuart. With Sir Lewis Wolpert, Sue Nelson and Johnny Ball 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World At One (FM only), with Julie Clarke
1.20-1.50 Cricket: England v India (LW only)
1.40 The Archers (FM only) 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; One Day I'll Fly Away (FM only), with Helen Kluger, with Christine Kavanagh, Jack Ellis and Kerry Fox
2.00-5.50 Cricket: England v India (LW only)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift (FM only)

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. 5.00am Newsdesk 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 World Today 7.30 Sports International 8.00 News 8.10 World of Faith 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Newsday 9.00 News 9.05 Health Matters 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Sports International 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsday 11.30 News 11.45 On the Spot 12.00 World Today 12.30 Sports International 1.00 News in German 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Assignment 2.00 Newsday 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multiscreen: X Press 4.00 News 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.10 World Today 6.25 Five 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Assignment 8.00 Newsday 8.00 News 9.01 Outlook 8.25 World of Faith 8.30 John Peel 10.00 World News 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian (Books) 11.00 Newsday 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.00 News 12.15 World Five 12.15 Soundbite 12.30 News World 1.00 Newsday 1.30 Good Books 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Outlook 2.55 World of Faith 3.00 Newsday 3.30 The Minute Drama 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

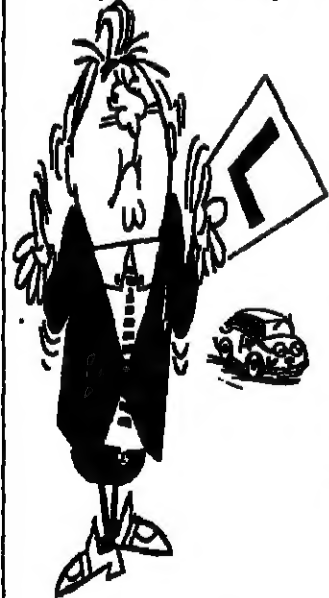
CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Harry Kelly 12.00 Susanah Shores 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 James Newbery 3.30 The Minute Drama 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 10.00 Graham Dwyer 11.00 Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Robin Barlow

TEST DRIVE YOUR BRAIN



WALK () NEXT
ZERO () CALF
EVEN () ADDS
KNIT () INTO
CLAD () FLEE
KERB () YELP
GERM () ROAD

On each line place a letter in the space which, when substituted for the first letter of the word either side, will form another word in each case. The seven letters used will give another word reading downwards. What is it?

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Mensa

What price a star vehicle without its star?

No sooner had he arrived, than he was gone. Mean, moody and magnificently well lit, John Madson walked off into the sunset, a man alone with his thoughts. Madson (BBC1) over. But don't worry. I'm sure it will be back. Quite who will be in any second series, however, is rather less clear after last night's concluding episode. Ian McShane obviously, you couldn't leave the star, co-executive producer and back-seat director out. But after him... it's anybody's guess.

Wearing his producer's hat, McShane cast uncertainty around with budget-cutting abandon. Just when things were going so well with the fair Magda (Joanna Kanska), a fit of pique about the difference between law and justice meant he just had to, to resign from Hearnley & Partners. "I was going to tell you," he said, fidgeting with one last lingering, unblinking look.

"Does that mean I can't be in the second series?" sobbed Kanska. "I'll do anything... I'll wear flat shoes..." For a moment McShane hesitated (hmm, no more acting on tip-toe...), but then he was gone, a producer alone with next year's cash-flow. Good lighting camera-men, after all, do not come cheap.

Apart from Kanska, Madson's resignation also casts doubt over the future of Charles Gray, which would be a shame as he has been wonderfully enjoyable as senior legal buffer, Sir Randolph. On the plus side, however, it would allow the confusing little problem of Madson's tormentor at work, George (Jonathan Coy) being a dead ringer for Madson's tormentor everywhere else, DI Rourke (Matthew Marsh) to be sorted out. Perhaps they could turn out to be long lost brothers in series two.

Just about the only person looking guaranteed a second outing is Jayne Ashbourne. For those

who have difficulty keeping up with Madson's women (some throw a girl in each pot, Madson has a woman in each decade) Ashbourne plays the youngest, Sarah, who, it is sometimes difficult to remember, is also his widowed daughter-in-law. Last night, she announced she was pregnant.

So was the pause that followed. I mean, I knew they flirted and that they even enjoyed one another in a meaningful kiss, but they hadn't had they? Drat. I must have missed it.

Actually, they hadn't. Nor was the baby Dominic's, the boyfriend she had somehow found time for between mourning and flirting. It was Rob's... Madson is about to become a grandfather. Given that Rob died in episode one, this was something of a surprise — either things had been moving a lot slower than we thought or young Sarah hadn't been paying attention

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

in her biology lessons. On the other hand, it did explain why her T-shirts never seem to fit. I hope McShane brings them all back, together with a producer/director combination strong enough to say "no" occasionally. Madson has been a good effort — well written, well acted and well directed. But short of his self-indulgence, it would be even better.

No sooner has A Knife in the

Heart, a history of transplant surgery, finished, than along comes QED: Brave Hearts (BBC1). If the BBC shows much more open-heart surgery, I'll be able to carry it out myself.

The programme turned out to be brief history of what might be done instead of transplants. Formerly patients with chronic heart failure but without the possibility of a transplant died. These days there is hope but, as the film painfully made clear, not a lot.

The film followed the attempts of a Bristol heart surgeon, the dashing Professor Angelini, to introduce a controversial technique pioneered in Brazil by Dr Randa Batista, part-time surgeon and part-time cattle farmer. Batista's technique is controversial because it involves cutting a hole in the main pumping chamber of the heart, removing a large piece of it and sewing the heart up again.

Everyone is afraid of the ventri-

cle," explained Batista: "They feel that if you cut it in half the patient will die... but that's not true." Sadly — as slow-motion and heavenly choral music rather unsubtly heralded — it turned out it was true for three of the four elderly and very ill patients operated on in Bristol, although one of the deaths was reportedly unconnected with the surgery.

By spending time with two of the patients, Emma Walker and John Hayes, Fisher's powerful film demonstrated the immense pain and misery that chronic heart failure causes, both to its sufferers and those who care for them. Whether they are guilty of raising false hopes, only time and an international pilot study will show.

For about 15 minutes there appeared to be real hope for Postcards from the Country (BBC2). The pace of change in the

Welsh mining valleys is so rapid that even Richard Mabey couldn't fail to be caught up in it. The change, as he allowed others to make clear, is biological rather than economic — the valleys may be a lot greener than they were but, as the former miners who now spend their days taking tourists down a museum pit said, there is little in the way of real work.

That, however, quickly proved quite enough of the present day. Back on went the sepia-tinted spectacles, out came the black and white film and we were off, wandering totally predictably down memory lane. Only a couple of years ago this technique of juxtaposing oral history with old footage seemed a genuine television breakthrough. But its relentless exploitation, largely by BBC2, has quickly reduced it to television wallpaper. Producers with nothing new to say, should not be allowed in the archives.

CHOICE

Airport (BBC1, 8.30pm (Scotland, May 31))
Three intercut stories make up the latest bulletin from Heathrow. A woman is reported to be stripping off in the ladies. This may sound like a fun item, but Mrs. Moses, who is travelling to Israel, is old, distressed and needs sympathetic handling. Meanwhile, at a nearby hotel, a group of aerobics are attending a course to overcome their fear of flying. Captain Douglas Ord's mission seems to overdo the black humour: "I must admit that if both wings fall off, you do have a pretty serious problem." The test will come when the aerobics take a one-hour flight on a British Airways 747. In Terminal 4 two jovial customs officers, Smith and Calt, are on the lookout for drug smugglers. Flights from Amsterdam, known to the pair as Sin City, are particular targets.

Hollywood Pets (ITV, 8.30pm)
Like many a Hollywood star who has moved into comfortable retirement, Cheeta relaxes by a swimming pool with a beer and a cigar. The veteran of 18 Tarzan films still relishes his former celebrity, clapping in delight when one of his old movies comes up on television. That Cheeta is a chimpanzee should occasion no surprise. *Hollywood Pets* is a daffy series but deliberately so. The sillier the stories, it is assumed, the better we shall like them. Cheeta is up against strong competition. We meet the cockroaches from *Allycat*, a feisty little lizard who once worked with Marlon Brando, and a wrestling tiger. For older viewers there are memories of Lassie and of a television series from the 1960s in which a horse played table tennis. Human actors, including Linda Gray and Stefanie Powers, also feature but, of course, they are hopelessly outstaged.

Witness: Russia's Holy War (Channel 4, 9.00pm)
One of the unforeseen by-products of the collapse of communism has been a flood of Christian missionaries into Eastern Europe. The cameras follow two American evangelists, Rick Amato and Alfred McCroskey, as they try to save souls on the streets of Moscow and St Petersburg and bring the Christian message to bemused Russian villagers. Unable to compete with their slick presentation, the Russian Orthodox Church sees these evangelists as a threat. The police have to be called when the rival sects confront each other in public. Adding to the Orthodox Church's discomfort is a former Siberian policeman who claims to be the son of God. The Communists' promotion of atheism has left foreign evangelists well-banned. McCroskey and Amato press on regardless.

The Poisoned Chalice: Summit Bloody Summit (BBC2, 9.30pm)
With supreme irony, as it turned out, Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979 as the leader of the party of Europe. Labour might be hoped to split on the issue but the Conservatives, who had led Britain into Europe, seemed to have no such doubts. Mrs Thatcher, however, was determined to secure a reduction in Britain's contribution and she was not prepared to act nicely. Part three of this engrossing series charts the abrasive relations between Britain and the rest of Europe during the Thatcher years. With most of the key names contributing, we get blow-by-blow accounts. The blows may have been only verbal but they were wounding. Not the least fascinating of the story is how Mrs Thatcher was able to pass off defeats as victories. Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (7119174)
9.25am Supermarket Sweep (7) (Teletext) (s) (7212743)
9.55am Regional News (Teletext) (2879304)
10.00am The Time... the Place (Teletext) (8114781)
10.35am This Morning (50548675)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (1543948)
12.30pm News and weather (Teletext) (4205438)
12.55pm Shortland Street (4273830) 1.25 Coronation Street (7) (Teletext) (1599781) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (19484507) 2.25 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (7) (Teletext) (s) (7737033)
3.20pm News headlines (Teletext) (7598878)
3.25pm Regional News (Teletext) (7597149)
3.30pm The Riddlers (7) (5883673) 3.40 Wizardia (7) (s) (1928830) 3.50 Rupert (7) (2202217) 4.15 Samson Superslug (Teletext) (s) (5556933) 4.40 Crazy Cottage (Teletext) (s) (2576894)
5.10am A Country Practice (s) (9456491)
5.40pm News and weather (Teletext) (801546)
6.00pm Home and Away (7) (Teletext) (s) (583410)
6.25pm HTV West (Teletext) (751323)
7.00pm Emmerdale (Teletext) (4273830) when they read a newspaper article about some of the residents (Teletext) (s) (7946)
7.30pm 3-D Eight-year-old Jordan Roberts, who has a birthmark on his face, reveals how he feels about being constantly stared at (s) (897)
8.00pm The Bill: Party On Deakin and Croft deal with a gang of delinquents at an Ecstasy party (Teletext) (6694)
8.30pm **Hollywood Pets** (Teletext) (s) (5101)

As HTV WEST except:
6.25pm-7.00pm Wales Tonight (751323)
7.30-8.00pm Trains (897)
10.40pm Welsh & Wealthy (690885)
11.10pm Hunter (748052)
12.05am 3-D (4440163)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Home and Away (4273830)
1.25pm Cross Wits (31946033)
1.55pm Home and Away (3922894)
2.25pm Entertainment Today (19487694)
2.55-3.20am A Country Practice (8231878)
5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (9456491)
6.00-7.00pm Westcountry Live (48255)
10.30pm Westcountry News (884878)
10.45pm Top Gun (754897)
11.15pm Millionaire (744410)
11.45pm Prisoner Cell Block H (900965)
12.40am Carnal Knowledge (9399163)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Home and Away (4273830)
1.25pm Home and Away (31946033)
1.55pm Shortland Street (69991304)
2.20pm Entertainment Today (19488323)
2.50-3.20pm Surprise Chefs (2082323)
5.10pm Home and Away (9456491)
6.00pm Meridian Tonight (753)
6.30-7.00pm Grass Roots (585)
10.40pm Film: Return to the Blue Lagoon (86636435)
12.40am Phoenix (9399163)

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12.55pm Emmerdale (4273830)
1.25pm Home and Away (31946033)
1.55pm Shortland Street (69991304)
2.20pm Entertainment Today (19488323)
2.50-3.20pm Surprise Chefs (2082323)
5.10pm Home and Away (9456491)
6.00pm Meridian Tonight (753)
6.30-7.00pm Grass Roots (585)
10.40pm Film: Return to the Blue Lagoon (86636435)
12.40am Phoenix (9399163)

As HTV WEST except:
6.25pm-7.00pm Wales Tonight (751323)
7.30-8.00pm Trains (897)
10.40pm Welsh & Wealthy (690885)
11.10pm Hunter (748052)
12.05am 3-D (4440163)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Home and Away (4273830)
1.25pm Cross Wits (31946033)
1.55pm Home and Away (3922894)
2.25pm Entertainment Today (19487694)
2.55-3.20am A Country Practice (8231878)
5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (9456491)
6.00-7.00pm Westcountry Live (48255)
10.30pm Westcountry News (884878)
10.45pm Top Gun (754897)
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THURSDAY MAY 23 1996

Publication of Illingworth's book overshadows Texaco Trophy

England start under cloud of controversy

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TIMING is a virtue that at present seems beyond English cricket and yesterday, by a sorry combination of the sun refusing to shine and Raymond Illingworth refusing to keep quiet, the launch of an international season in which wounds need healing and hope needs refreshing stood at risk of sabotage.

The brooding clouds that hung low over the Oval all day were symbolic of deeper, more divisive issues that the simple climatic threat to the opening Texaco Trophy international against India today. The issues involve Illingworth and the ill-timed serialisation of a book that ought not to have been published while he is chairman of the England selectors.

Such is the nature of the book, breaching the acknowledged confidentiality of selection debates and specifically criticising individuals in the England team, that he may not remain as chairman very much longer. Illingworth is a proud man as well as a stubborn one and any attempt to censure him, a possibility the disciplinary committee of the Test and County Cricket Board is now investigating, could provoke premature resignation.

This is something that would severely embarrass his employers, which may be one persuasive reason for them to do nothing about it. But there is plainly a case to answer.

Even politicians usually wait to leave office before publishing their diaries. It does not especially worry me that Illingworth has had his say on the tiresome Devon Malcolm affair, which, until now, had been falsely portrayed as a one-sided issue, black and white in every conceivable sense.

The central point of concern must be the principle of a man making money out of

publishing the internal workings of his job while he is at the helm of the national team. It should not have been allowed to happen — let alone in this most sensitive of weeks — and if there is not some anguish this morning in the offices of the TCCB, whose ultimate responsibility it is to safeguard the integrity of the game, then complacency has taken root.

This is a delicate matter, potentially disruptive to an England team striving to regroup, refocus and restore public loyalty after the disappointments of the winter. The players spent yesterday, in the words of the captain, Michael Atherton, "trying to induce the feel-good factor". They are not exactly aided in this by having their first game overshadowed by the indiscretions of the chairman.

Atherton, to his credit, remained notably jolly. When asked to consider the possibility of being asked to speak to any disciplinary hearing on the Illingworth issue, he joked: "I'll plead the Fifth Amendment." Pressed, he responded: "If I am asked by a committee to make a commitment, then I will do so. Unless that happens, I am not interested in raking up the past."

The captain, indeed, was admirably upbeat about the present, especially about the innovative practice and preparation methods being employed by the new coach, David Lloyd.

Yesterday they included an unfathomable fielding routine, in which England players still had their traditional difficulty hitting a single stump, videos showing their own team playing somewhat better than the Indians, and the first rendition of an uplifting tape of team music — "extremely patriotic", according to Atherton.

The mood of the side was visibly good. But then, it would be, wouldn't it? There is always plenty of optimism at this stage of the season.

Atherton agreed. "There would be something very wrong if there was not. The slate is wiped clean, no-one is dwelling on what went wrong in the past — and, anyway, our recent record at home is pretty good."

He is right about this, but the crowd that will fill the Oval this morning will be thinking not of the Texaco Trophy win over West Indies last year but of the fact that England ended their winter overseas having lost nine consecutive one-day international matches against Test opposition. It is this memory that must be

purged over the next four days.

Interest will centre upon the debut of Alistair Brown as Atherton's opening partner and of either Rishabh Irani or Mark Ealham — just possibly, both — as all-rounders. And there will be great curiosity over the altered pattern of one-day batting, the split, as Atherton says, into "a three-phase innings — the whop at the start, the solid, quick-running bit in the middle, keeping wickets intact for another whop at the end".

In pursuit of this, England will have a fluid batting order, with Neil Smith padded up to come in if Brown falls early.

The final make-up of the side, however, has to wait until the pitch emerges from under the covers. It would be a great shame if the need for them has compromised the usual, ideal Oval surface for one-day cricket, although England stand to benefit more than India from any help on offer to the seam bowlers.

The Indians have not bowled well on tour so far, a point that was evidently stressed to them forcibly on Tuesday evening by their manager, Sandeep Patil. "I lost my temper for the first time last night," Patil said yesterday. "The players were quite shocked but they now

know I am going to be tough on them in future. We have not bowled or fielded very well and we have to put that right."

Mohammad Azharuddin, the India captain, is fit to play despite bruised fingers, but he looked out at the London weather with doleful eyes. "We have not had a warm day since we arrived," he said. Above his head, the Texaco posters blazed their catchphrase for the series: "The heat is on." Yesterday, it applied only to the England chairman of selectors.



Brown was in confident mood as he prepared for his England debut yesterday

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Patil's stage, page 45
ITC standings, page 45

England cash in dividend from Neville brothers' family business

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN PEXING

THE Neville brothers, Gary and Phil, viewed the Great Wall of China yesterday. Tonight, they will add a brick of their own to history in the Workers' Stadium in Peking by becoming only the second set of brothers to represent England this century. If they go on to become as famous as Jack and Bobby Charlton, England's first international against China A will be remembered as a red letter day in more ways than one.

"It was an unforgettable moment when I was told I was in the side," Phil Neville, at 19 two years the younger of the pair, said. "Hopefully, it will be the start of a long road for both us." Gary added. The last time the two played together other than for their club, Manchester United, was for Boundary Park Under-16s, the side that also produced David Platt. In the final weeks of United's run to the Double, Phil has been keeping his brother out of the side.

"I don't see why they should not play for England for years to come," Terry Venables, the England coach, said. "They're good professionals, very level-headed and to get them at this young age speaks volumes for them." Yet, though Phil will win his first cap and Gary his tenth, neither was the first international in the family. Sister Tracey has played netball for England.

"It's an incredible thing for the family being able to turn on the television and watch

both their sons play for England," Venables added. Bury FC, where Neville Neville works as commercial manager and wife Jill as assistant secretary, will be bursting with pride. Alex Ferguson, their club manager, should be too.

If the long march has begun for the Nevilles, yesterday will be remembered as the long walk for many of the England party, who were guided the wrong way up the Great Wall and climbed more than 800 metres when they could have used the cable car. The views from the top were well worth the effort, but 45 minutes on the step machine was hardly ideal preparation for what Venables has described as a "hard test" for his team. The Nevilles and their central defensive partner, Tony Adams, recalled after four months out with a knee injury, did take

the cable car. A few of the others might regret not staying at the hotel playing cards with Paul Gascoigne and Paul Ince come the latter stages tonight.

Venables has made nine changes to the side that began against Hungary last Saturday. Only Gary Neville and Darren Anderson retain their places. Alan Shearer replaces Les Ferdinand in attack, while Nick Barmby and Jamie Redknapp have their final chance to claim a place in the squad of 22 for the European championship.

On the bench, fingers will be firmly crossed that Adams, who takes over the captaincy from Platt, survives his first competitive test since January and that the disappointment of the FA Cup Final defeat has not drained the spark from McManaman. Southgate, clearly marked out to be the

utility man in the squad, takes over the defensive role in front of the back four filled so effectively by Ince. His job will be to stop the quick breaks that, by reputation, are the hallmark of a China side lifted by the frenzied support of a 65,000 capacity crowd.

When all this is over, the Nevilles will wonder at the enormity of their achievements over the past two weeks. At Wembley, they emulated — if only for a minute or two, when Gary came on as a late substitute — the feat of the Heron brothers, Hubert and Frank, who won the Cup for Wanderers in 1876 and played for England in the same season. Tonight, in the country that, because of its strict policy on birthrate, averages the lowest number of brothers for size of population in the world, the blond Phil and the dark Gary will become only the sixth set of brothers to line up together for England. One can safely assume they are the first pair to pocket a championship medal, an FA Cup-winners' medal and an international cap within a month. Most individuals would be happy with any one of those three.

The Charltons played the first of their 28 games together 31 years ago, Bobby scoring in a 2-2 draw with Scotland at Wembley. I wonder if brotherly advice was as absent then as it was yesterday. "He's got to learn for himself," Gary said. "It's the only way."



Gary, left, and Phil Neville celebrate selection yesterday

Lee's locks give no option but to cut and run

 Russell Kempson on the fruits of a
 furore that is not to a manager's taste

Shaven, bleached or tousled; dreadlocked, knickered or close-cropped. Footballers often head the field in follicular fashion, the sport's young bucks ever keen to show off their daring and trend-setting dash. But pineapple-shaped?

Little did Jason Lee, the Nottingham Forest forward, realise what a storm in a fruit stall he would create when he unveiled his bizarre style on an unsuspecting public. He could not have imagined, either, that it would all end in tears, with Frank Clark, the Forest manager, placing him on the transfer list and part-blaming his cranial decoration.

"I've had no alternative but to put Jason up for sale," Clark said. "The fans could relate to him, because he put his heart and soul into everything he did, but they've picked up on their mickey-taking and made his job difficult."

Clark also accused Frank Skinner and David Baddiel, presenters of *Fantasy Football League*, the cult satirical television programme, of leaving Lee's life in tatters ... or chunks. "A couple of people on TV, who know nothing, have helped Jason become victimised," he said. "It has had a bad effect on him."

Clark might have mentioned that Lee, a lanky striker signed from Southend United for £200,000, scored only one goal since the programme first featured him in the new year having scored seven before Christmas.

Though Clark tried to head off the controversy yesterday by moderating his comments, the BBC was unimpressed. "It is a light-hearted programme with good-natured banter," a spokesman said. "It is not intended to offend." Lee has twice turned down invitations to appear on the show.

Yet never have a player's locks caused such a fuss. Vinnie Jones and Julian Dicks frequently prefer the bald, aggressive look; Tony Daley, the Wolverhampton Wanderers winger, has

switched from a tuft on the forehead to a tiny Buddhist pigtail; and Andy Bernal, the Reading midfielder player, once had what appeared to be a demented tarantula crawling across his scalp.

Jamie Cureton, of Norwich City, sported a shocking green rinse and Bobby Mihaylov, the Bulgaria goalkeeper, is blissfully happy with his hair implant à la Graham Gooch.

Anyway, what's wrong with a pineapple? Oviedo, King Ferdinand of Spain's director of mines in the New World, said in 1535: "There are no other fruits to equal them for their beauty of appearance, delicate fragrance and excellent flavour."

Perhaps Lee, 25, should



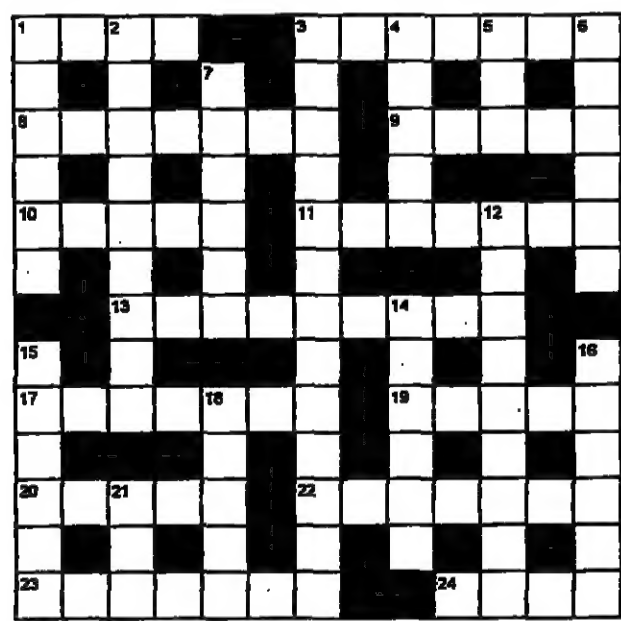
Lee's decline

seek a new club in Brazil or Paraguay, where *Ananas comosus*, of the *Bromeliaceae* family, originates from.

Debra Pieri, of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau, said yesterday: "We're extremely pleased that Mr Lee has chosen to adopt a 'pineapple' hairstyle. We are sure that, as a healthy and active sportsman with a trendy hair-do, he would be an ideal character to promote pineapples as a nutritious and cool kind of snack."

Lee's predicament has at least shed some light on an obscure yet oft-used football phrase. It sounds something like "If he's a footballer, my posterior is a pineapple." He can at least take consolation.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

 No 799 in association with
 BRITISH MIDLAND


- ACROSS**
- Pay attention (to) (4)
 - Live together (7)
 - Hedge-shaping (7)
 - Corporation head (5)
 - Collector's item (5)
 - Collected edition: transport (7)
 - Office lunch-room (9)
 - Become worse (after improving) (7)
 - A nice drink of tea (5)
 - Parish priest (5)
 - Fabled Greek singer, lyrist (7)
 - Med. country, has cedars (7)
 - Try; listen to (4)
- DOWN**
- Using advanced electronics (2-4)
 - Based on practice not theory (9)
 - Strongly desire the unobtainable (3,3,3,4)
 - Tarzan type (2-3)
 - Tree: coastal feature (3)
 - Push forcefully (4)
 - Bribe; investment return (3-3)
 - Insult religion (9)
 - Cooking instructions (6)
 - Fawn apologetically (6)
 - Mooring cable (6)
 - Surname of Evita (5)
 - A nut; a horse; a loaf (3)

PRIZES:
 THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
 THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 788
 ACROSS: 2 In the red 6 Prison 8 At last 9 Bulldog 10 Astr 12 Holman Hunt 16 Draw a blank 18 Korea 20 Scratch 21 Malice 22 Option 23 Yodeler
 DOWN: 1 Croquet 2 Insomnia 3 Hit man 4 Reast 5 Dotard 7 Self-made 11 Stalwart 13 Up-anchor 14 Knock-on 15 Skippy 17 Rascal 19 Riled

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